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Netanyahu: Har Homa will be built

By LIAT COLLINS

The government will build in all parts of Jerusalem, including Har Homa, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told coalition faction heads before yesterday's Knesset debate on Jerusalem.

The decision on when to begin building will be made by the Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem next week, he said. The prime minister added that the government is also examining the possibility of building public housing for the Arab sector in part of the Har Homa neighborhood.

Netanyahu reported that the ministerial committee, in a previous meeting, had allocated funds to build housing units for Arabs in eastern Jerusalem to relieve the housing shortage there.

He said the Palestinian Authority had promised to stop operating offices in east Jerusalem and the government is acting to ensure this.

He called on the opposition to stand behind their declarations on the importance of the unity of Jerusalem and asked the coalition to support the government's decisions.

His comments were repeated in the Knesset plenum by Communications Minister Limor Livnat, when she answered motions to the agenda by MK Ze'ev Begin (Likud), Meretz leader Yossi Sarid and Reuven Rivlin (Likud).

After the session, Labor Party leader Shimon Peres said he still had no clear idea of what the prime minister intended doing in Jerusalem. "He didn't give any commitment," Peres said.

Peres said his party's stand on the Har Homa issue is "that it's a matter of conditions and timing and an overall picture. We are for a united Jerusalem but also against having an intifada in Jerusalem. Anything move must be weighed fully."

Begin, addressing the plenum, repeatedly attacked Netanyahu and the government for hesitating on the building at Har Homa, and accused the prime minister of deceiving the voters.

"Citizens thought the Likud government would rescue Israel from the stranglehold of the Oslo Accords and they are shocked and shamed at the fact that under a government led by Benjamin Netanyahu the stranglehold is getting tighter," he said.

He also belittled Netanyahu's pre-election promise that his government would close PLO institutions in Jerusalem. He accused the prime minister of ignoring the facts, "not wanting to hear, choos-

ing not to see. And he is therefore condemned to announce over and over again that the PLO institutions have apparently closed.

"Anyone with authority who ignores the division of Jerusalem is dividing Jerusalem. Anyone with authority who is not acting appropriately to prevent the division of the united city is dividing Jerusalem. The person with the authority and responsibility is Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. And therefore any child in any home can today answer the painful and bitter question: 'Who is dividing Jerusalem?'"

Begin also warned that when rifles are once again aimed at IDF soldiers, the question of who gave them guns will again be asked, only this time, "in addition to the answer that Peres gave them guns, it will be said that Netanyahu, in his full glory, also gave them guns."

He said the principle of reciprocity which Netanyahu had said he would preserve "is no more. It is eroded, unraveled, fractured, deceased, evaporated, dead."

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who took exception to Begin's speech, took the floor in an unplanned counter-argument that lasted nearly an hour. Matza said Har Homa would be built but only after all considerations had been accounted for. He accused Begin of inflaming the masses and potentially igniting a spark that would burn Jerusalem.

Rivlin also attacked Netanyahu personally, repeatedly referring to his friendship with the premier in the past tense.

Sarid warned that the Har Homa project would kill the peace process.

The Knesset later passed the preliminary reading of a bill which would require an 80-MK majority to make any change in the Jerusalem Law, which delineates the city's status and borders. The bill was submitted by Eliezer Zandberg and passed 23 to 13.

Those against included the Meretz MKs, the MKs from the Arab parties, and Shevah Weiss (Labor).

"The bill's acceptance is another endorsement of the fact that the united city of Jerusalem is not a matter for negotiations with the Palestinians and that the Knesset supports the policy of strengthening Jerusalem and building there," Zandberg said, after the vote.

The same bill failed to pass in the previous Knesset. It passed yesterday with the help of the Land of Israel Front, which returned to the House in time for the vote, after touring Har Homa and other locations.

Deri: Avi-Yitzhak lying



Avi-Yitzhak denies he'll be state's witness

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Attorney Dan Avi-Yitzhak's resignation as MK Aryeh Deri's attorney and his reference to Deri's attempts to appoint Roni Bar-On as attorney-general may prove to be a turning point in the police investigation of the alleged "Bar-On-for-Hebron" affair.

In his resignation letter, Avi-Yitzhak confirmed one aspect of the story reported last month by Channel 1: That Deri had indeed planned and pushed for the appointment of Bar-On as attorney-general.

Avi-Yitzhak denied that he intends to turn state's witness in the affair. Sources close to him denied Deri's claim that Avi-Yitzhak was Channel 1's source for the Bar-On-for-Hebron story.

Deri yesterday denied Avi-Yitzhak's claim that he had pushed for Bar-On's appointment, and that he had defamed the attorney and his wife. Calling the statements in Avi-Yitzhak's letter "lies and deceit," Deri noted the letter does not confirm a deal linking the Hebron agreement to the Bar-On appointment, or a plea bargain deal between himself and Bar-On, which was the essence of Channel 1's story.

Avi-Yitzhak's resignation may affect Deri's fraud trial in Jerusalem District Court, which his attorneys want postponed, due to the "poisoned public atmosphere" against Deri.

Avi-Yitzhak, who was representing Deri in the fraud trial, resigned from the case Tuesday night because of things he claimed Deri said about him to the police in the Bar-On-for-Hebron investigation.

Since he was relieved by the court in October 1994 of representing Deri on a regular basis, Avi-Yitzhak will probably not require the court's approval for his resignation, as is usually the case. Avi-Yitzhak said yesterday he had an agreement with Deri, which was approved by the court, which enables him to resign from the case at any time. Deri stressed that the appointment of the attorney-general is a political one, since it is made by the cabinet rather than by the court.

Avi-Yitzhak insisted that none of his remarks in public or to the police had violated the principle of

lawyer-client confidentiality, because the matter being discussed had nothing to do with Deri's trial.

"If MK Deri and I are discussing Shas's chances in the next elections, or the appointment of the attorney-general, or if Deri asks me to do one thing or another - because of the people I know or who consult with me - with regard to the appointment of the attorney-general, there is no connection between that and the service I give to my client, and so I am required to answer such questions," Avi-Yitzhak said.

He added that in theory, if in a conversation with a lawyer, a crime yet to be committed is discussed - as opposed to a crime that already was committed, which would be protected by lawyer-client confidentiality - then the confidentiality does not apply, since "conversations with lawyers are not places of refuge through which to commit crimes."

Deri was questioned by police on the Bar-On-for-Hebron in the fifth time yesterday, and was grilled for several hours. Likud activist David Appel was questioned for the second time. It was learned yesterday that on Tuesday, the day Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was questioned, Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh also was questioned.

Israel Broadcasting Authority director-general Mordechai Kirschenbaum said that Avi-Yitzhak's resignation is further proof that Channel 1 had exposed a political story of the first degree, which will have far-reaching implications.

"I thought from the beginning and I'm certain of it today too, that our broadcast was correct and accurate from A to Z," Kirschenbaum told Army Radio. He repeated his intention to "draw personal conclusions if we made a mistake, but I have no doubt it won't come to that, because the story we broke is true."

Avi-Yitzhak's letter, Deri trial, Stories Page 12

Shas leader Aryeh Deri arrives at Fraud Squad headquarters in Jaffa for questioning yesterday about his part in the appointment of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general.

Ministry: Spy tale not 'Pollard 2'

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Declaring that it has not been approached by American authorities on the matter, the Israeli Embassy here is downplaying the FBI's investigation of a US Army engineer for allegedly providing classified information to Israeli officers at a base in Michigan.

"I don't think this is a Pollard 2," embassy spokesman Gadi Baltiansky said yesterday, referring to Jonathan Pollard, convicted of spying for Israel and now serving a life sentence.

"Israeli defense personnel serving in the US have the most explicit and categorical instructions forbidding them from receiv-

ing classified material unless it's authorized or through official channels established by the two countries," he said.

No Israeli official has been approached by the US authorities, Baltiansky said, adding that if it comes to pass, "their request will be treated in the spirit of full cooperation [and] we will check it out."

The investigation revolves around statements made last week by a civilian mechanical engineer, David A. Tennenbaum, during a polygraph test he took last week to gain a security clearance upgrade. Tennenbaum is employed at the Tank Automotive Research and Development Engineering Center of the US's Army Tank and Armaments Command, in Warren, Michigan.

According to an affidavit filed in US District Court in Detroit last Friday and publicized on the Internet edition of the *Detroit Free Press*, which broke the story yesterday, Tennenbaum "admitted to divulging non-releasable classified information to every Israeli liaison officer (ILO) assigned to TACOM over the last 10 years."

Tennenbaum further stated that he "inadvertently provided his Israeli contacts, specifically the ILOs and Dr. Reuven Granot, Scientific Deputy Director, Israeli Ministry of Defense, classified information from the three special access program projects to which he had

Continued on Page 2

Civil Service to probe Benizri's hiring of aides

By JUDY SEGEL

The Civil Service Commission is to demand that Deputy Health Minister Shlomo Benizri (Shas) fire three of his five personal advisers, if it finds that civil service regulations were violated by his hiring more than the two allowed. Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander decided this on the basis of an investigation by *The Jerusalem Post*, and said he would launch an examination of how many advisers have been brought in by each of the government's half-dozen deputy ministers.

According to the Kibersky Report recommendations implemented by the Civil Service

Commission, each minister may hire, without a tender, an office director, personal secretary, driver, assistant, adviser and spokesman.

A deputy minister serving under a minister may hire an office director, a personal secretary or personal assistant and a driver. A deputy minister also may hire one adviser if he fills an already-vacant job slot in the ministry. Advisers must have at least a bachelor's degree "in the relevant field."

The *Post* has learned that Benizri employs Amos Huji (senior adviser), David Sasson (assistant), Yitzhak Avidani (adviser), Amos Danieli (adviser) and Hani Shimoqi (office director/public complaints officer).

Benizri, who works in the ministry's new office building in Jerusalem's Talpotei neighborhood, asked the ministry's deputy director-general for administration, Ya'acov Berger, to supply offices for them all. Berger instructed a

senior ministry official, who has been working there for 20 years, to vacate his office immediately and make room for Benizri's staff.

Colleagues of the senior official complained to the *Post*, which investigated the matter. Berger refused to be interviewed.

Benizri told the *Post* that he had been granted authority for a "wide variety of responsibilities, including public health, mental health, health in the hospitals, addictive drugs, geriatrics, pharmaceuticals and dental health," and would thus need personal advisers for these topics, even though there are ministry professionals dealing with each of these matters.

Benizri said that recently, all the

deputy ministers met with Hollander and said that two advisers each would not be enough.

Benizri claimed the commissioner told them they could "bring in all the people they need."

Hollander denied this, saying all the ministers know of the two-adviser limit.

Benizri maintained he had "received permission from the health minister" to hire his five staffers. Ministry spokesman Effic Lahav, asked on what basis Benizri had hired additional advisers, said their employment was made possible by using budget allocations from "a section meant for hiring temporary workers."

According to the commission, however, such funds may not be



Shlomo Benizri (Issac Harari)



Deng dead at 92
China's Deng Xiaoping died yesterday. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent condolences. Story, Page 4 (AP)

Book WE'RE MOVING!
The Jerusalem Post Book Department is moving to new premises at 22 Hahistadrut, Jerusalem - just off Ben Yehuda.

The JP store on 10 HaRav Kook is closed to walk-in customers.

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NEWS

in brief

Couple killed in accident near Haifa

A Haifa couple was killed last night as they headed south to Kfar Galim, when their car veered into oncoming traffic and crashed head-on into a large truck. Rescue teams arrived and declared the woman, 47, and the man, 45, dead. Police said the accident may have been caused by a mechanical problem in the car. *Tim*

IMA declares work dispute

The Israel Medical Association yesterday declared a work dispute with its employers (the government, Kupat Holim Clalit and public hospitals) relating to the severe overcrowding of internal-medicine departments. The hospital nurses' union also has held intermittent strikes over the issue. The IMA, which will organize an emergency meeting of internal-medicine department heads in all the hospitals on Sunday, said occupancy ranges from 150% to 180% of capacity, making the ability to treat patients very difficult. The Health Ministry commented yesterday that it has been warning the Treasury for a long time about the problems of hospital crowding. *Judy Siegel*

Lieberman questioned about IBA summaries

National Fraud Squad investigators yesterday questioned Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman about the summaries he prepared of reports on the Israel Broadcasting Agency. It was the first time Lieberman was questioned about allegations that he inserted misleading information into his summaries that was not in the original government reports. *Tim*

Witnesses: Sharon didn't mislead Begin

Two of prime minister Menachem Begin's advisers testified in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday in National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's NIS 510,000 libel suit against *Ha'aretz* and reporter Uzi Benziman. Yehiel Kadishai, who headed the Prime Minister's Office under Begin, maintained that Sharon never lied to Begin. Uri Porat, who was Begin's communications adviser during Operation Peace for Galilee, testified that though there were rumors at the time that Sharon was misleading the government, Begin rejected them. *Tim*

Danny and Ruti Nahmani reach an agreement

Danny and Ruti Nahmani reached a compromise yesterday, with the mediation of Jerusalem District Judge Ya'acov Bazak, under which a surrogate mother will give birth to their child. Ruti will be responsible for all the medical expenses of the birth and Danny will have visiting privileges. They also decided to get divorced as soon as possible and that the surrogacy proceedings will not begin until the divorce is finalized. *Tim*

Police arrest three Israeli workers in Hebron

Police arrested three Jewish workers at the Beit Nahum building site in the Avraham Avinu quarter at noon yesterday for violating a stop work order issued by the Civil Administration Authority last Thursday. Hebron spokesman Noam Arnon said the workers were tearing down walls on the second floor of a building in which a Jewish family lives. "The stop work order related to building foundations," Arnon said. *Margot Dudkevitch*

Naveh: Ze'evi slurred Indyk

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Cabinet secretary Danny Naveh, who also heads a panel on combating antisemitism, blasted MK Rehavam Ze'evi yesterday for slurring US Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk with an antisemitic epithet, and called on the legislator to make amends. In a Knesset session on Tuesday, Ze'evi reportedly called Indyk a "yehudon" which is translated literally as "Jew boy" or loosely as "Uncle Tom." The term had been hurled by rightist protesters at secretary of state Henry Kissinger in

1975, while he was seeking to negotiate Israeli disengagement in the Sinai.

Naveh wrote in a letter to Ze'evi that Israel is committed to fighting antisemitism everywhere. "Needless to say, the use of antisemitic statements here, especially by an elected figure, is not legitimate. Such an epithet is especially distressing when it is directed at the US ambassador to Israel, Mr. Martin Indyk, who is worthy of great appreciation. I hope you find the way to rectify this matter," Naveh said.

'POLLARD 2'

Continued from Page 1

access. The information relates to such areas as the Bradley tank and Patriot missiles, the affidavit said. An FBI spokesman in Detroit, Thomas Bailey, said yesterday that a search warrant has been executed by the bureau of Tenenbaum's home in suburban Southfield. He emphasized, though, that "no arrests have been made." The affidavit stated that a search of Tenenbaum's home was necessary to determine whether documents and computer files related to various armor systems were being kept there despite their being confidential. The FBI also stated that it wishes to search Tenenbaum's phone bills, bank statements and address books. The Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv said it had not been asked for any details regarding the report. "The defense establishment personnel in the United States have clear and unequivocal instructions barring them from receiving classified information unless it comes

from proper channels between the two countries and in an authorized and agreed upon manner," a ministry statement said.

The FBI investigation did not come up in the meeting yesterday between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and FBI Director Louis Freeb, US officials said. Noting that a failed polygraph test taken only last week triggered the affair, a US official said "the whole investigation is in a preliminary stage, and no arrests have been made. Washington did not even know about the matter so it would have been inappropriate for the FBI director to raise this issue with the prime minister."

He said the matter should not have leaked to the media, and that this occurred because the FBI affidavit was mistakenly unsealed instead of sealed. The focus of Freeb's discussion with Netanyahu was broadening counterterrorism efforts, the US official said. The US official denied that Freeb discussed the extradition of suspected Hamas official Mousa Abu Marzook to Israel since the matter is currently in the US courts. *Arieh O'Sullivan and David Makovsky contributed to this report.*

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother

DOROTHY BERNSTEIN

The funeral will take place at 2:30 p.m. today, Thursday, February 20 (13 Adar I) at the Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Shimon Junction.

Shiva at the Bernstein residences - Israel: 8 Hayahalom, Nof Ayalon, Sha'alvim; USA: 1563 East 2nd Street, Brooklyn.

The Bernstein Family

'Front' MKs tour Har Homa

By HERB KEINON

A group of MKs calling themselves the Land of Israel Front went to Har Homa yesterday and declared that building the Jerusalem neighborhood is more important than staying in the coalition.

"Not building in Jerusalem, not closing the PLO offices in Jerusalem, and not approving the plan to build between Ma'aleh Adumim and Jerusalem is, de facto, dividing Jerusalem," said Michael Kleiner (Gesher), the unofficial head of this new lobby. "If the Netanyahu government will perform like a Yossi Sarid government, then we will relate to it as we would to a Sarid government."

Because of the MKs' absence from the Knesset, the coalition lost several votes in the plenum.

Standing on a ridge overlooking the forested hill in southeastern Jerusalem, Kleiner said the MKs are not interested in a battle with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but want to give him the support needed to withstand pressure not to build the neighborhood.

National Religious Party MK Shaul Yahalom said that the decision to visit the site during a plenum session and thus miss votes should be seen as a signal that the MKs will make life difficult for the government if need be. "We are doing this with much pain, and in stages," Yahalom said.

"We never dreamt that this government would not build in Jerusalem. There is bad, really bad and absurd. We will not be a part of the absurd," he said.

Kleiner said that if a decision to build at Har Homa is not made by next Wednesday, the Land of Israel Front will again leave the plenum and tour Ras el-Armud, site of another proposed neighbor-



NRP MK Shaul Yahalom (right), a member of the Land of Israel Front, argues with contractor David Mir during a tour of Har Homa yesterday. (Brian Handler)

hood in eastern Jerusalem. The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza organized yesterday's tour, which not only included Har Homa, but also Road No. 45, from

Ben Shimon to Mishor Adumim, and the area between Ma'aleh Adumim and Jerusalem which the Land of Israel Front, and settlement leaders, are demanding be built on immediately.

At Har Homa, the MKs were confronted by two Jewish contractors from whom most of the site was expropriated, and who are demanding that they be given the right to build on the hill.

Among the dozen MKs who went on the tour yesterday were representatives from Likud, Gesher, Tsomet, the National Religious Party, Moledet and Yisrael Ba'aliya.

Foreign Ministry rebuts PA attacks abroad

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

The Foreign Ministry, girding itself for verbal attacks by PLO officials abroad, disseminated a six-page document this week to its diplomatic missions to counter allegations that Israel is violating the Oslo accords.

Ten different subjects are discussed in the document, including allegations relating to Palestinian construction in Hebron, the evacuation of the Jahalin Beduin in Ma'aleh Adumim, and the confiscation of identity cards of Palestinians in Jerusalem with American citizenship.

On the subject of Palestinian identity cards, the document reads: "Israel has not revoked the

residency of any Palestinian who is legally resident in Jerusalem. These Palestinians, like any other individual who has lived in Israel continuously, can continue to do so without loss of any benefit to which he or she is entitled."

"The Supreme Court has determined...that permanent residence is a matter of 'presence.' Therefore, when a person uproots the center of his life from Israel and establishes it elsewhere, the right to permanent residency is lost. It must be emphasized that these provisions apply equally to all permanent residents of the State of Israel and not just to residents of eastern Jerusalem."

frequently called on the Foreign Ministry in the past to be more assertive in combating Palestinian claims abroad. This time the document came from the Foreign Ministry without any prompting.

The Defense Ministry yesterday rejected claims that new settlements are being built in Judea and Samaria, denying reports to that effect in *Ma'ariv* yesterday.

Peace Now protests widening of bypass road

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Peace Now sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday protesting plans to extend the Bethlehem bypass road, which opened last September.

According to Peace Now, the roads and railway subcommittee, which is part of the civil administration's central planning committee, has decided to widen the bypass road between the Gush Etzion Junction and the settlement of Elazar.

The movement said widening the road would only irritate the strained relations between Israelis and Palestinians and could hamper the peace talks.

According to Peter Lerner, spokesman for the civil administration, the Gush Etzion road is in urgent need of repair. "The road is unsafe, and full of steep bends and turns."

Lerner said the plans include widening the road and repaving it, but stressed that there were plans to build a new road or a tunnel.

Ministry denies report of building boom in territories

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Defense Ministry yesterday rejected claims that new settlements are being built in Judea and Samaria, denying reports to that effect in *Ma'ariv* yesterday.

The daily had reported that Kfar Oranim, near the settlement of Lapid, is the first new settlement to be built in Judea and Samaria since 1992. A sidebar to the report listed some 60 settlements where houses and apartments are being built, suggesting a building boom in Judea and Samaria.

Avi Benayahu, media coordinator for Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, said that the ministry is upholding the government's settlement policy.

"Any requests for building are thoroughly reviewed, covering all legal aspects as well as security. Some of the requests are authorized and others are rejected," Benayahu said.

The article described Kfar Oranim, situated on a hilltop west of Lapid, as a new settlement with 50 villas waiting to be inhabited.

Yehudit Tiar, spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza claimed the article was nothing more than a "tempest in a teacup."

"The council has released several statements lately demanding that the freeze be lifted to allow more building to take place," she said, adding that no new settlements have been built in Judea and Samaria since 1992.

Tiar added that Lapid, which was built in 1990, lies on the border of the Binyamin Regional Council and is partially in Israel proper.

"There are several private contractors building there and each one of them calls the site a different name," she added.

However, Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Ya'ari claimed that the article was accurate, the result of careful research by the movement's spokesman, Mossy Raz.

"I wish that there really was such intensive building taking place in Judea and Samaria. That is what we have all been praying for," said Tiar.

Fighting continues in security zone

By DAVID RUDGE

Fighting continued in south Lebanon yesterday, as the atmosphere in the region remained tense following the heavy exchanges on Tuesday in which a Lebanese woman was killed and two other civilians wounded.

Hizbullah gunmen pounded a South Lebanese Army position in the Kawitabeh area, in the eastern sector of the zone, with mortar fire for several hours.

There were no casualties in the long-range attack, which continued from early afternoon until late evening. IDF gunners returned fire.

Reports from Lebanon said IDF and SLA gunmen had fired dozens of machine gun and mortar rounds at various positions north of the security zone throughout Tuesday night and the early hours of yesterday morning.

The fighting yesterday came as the Operation Grapes of Wrath monitoring group met at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura, for the second time this week, to discuss complaints by both Lebanon and Israel relating to the exchanges on Tuesday.

Lebanon protested over the IDF and SLA shelling, which it said caused the civilian casualties and

extensive damage to property. Israel complained that the shooting by Hizbullah at IDF and SLA positions which sparked the fighting had originated from inside villages north of the zone.

The five-nation monitoring group, established to supervise the understandings that ended the Grapes of Wrath cross-border fighting last April, began its deliberations in the afternoon. The meeting was expected to continue today.

Hizbullah, meanwhile, indicated that it was leaving open its options regarding possible retaliation for the civilian casualties.

Sheikh Nabil Kaouk, Hizbullah's leader for south Lebanon, said, "The resistance has the right to retaliate in the way it thinks is appropriate. It's decision to confront the violations [of the understandings] by the Zionist enemy is open to all options."

Meanwhile, Reuters reported last night that IDF and SLA troops had snatched a shepherd who was guarding his flock in south Lebanon and had taken him into the security zone. There was no immediate confirmation of the report from any other source.

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China's vice premier defends arms policy

Seeks joint ventures with Israel

By STEVE RODAN

China's vice premier defended his government's arms policy in the Middle East, saying yesterday that Beijing is not helping Iran achieve capability in either nuclear weapons or long-range missiles.

"You get a lot of wrong information on Iran," said Li Langqing, vice premier of the state council. "This is not a special relationship."

Li echoed his arguments made two days earlier during a meeting with Foreign Minister David Levy, when he stressed that his government was not selling technology or equipment in the field of nuclear weapons or missiles to Tehran. The vice premier said in an interview that Beijing has a firm policy of not escalating tensions in the Middle East.

"You have to be very careful of security in this area," Li said. "This is our principle. We abide by our principles for security in this

area."

US officials have told their Israeli counterparts that China delivered to Iran equipment for the enrichment of uranium. The equipment is regarded as being for civilian nuclear purposes, but the officials say the Chinese system has military applications as well.

Such aid has been decreasing in recent months, Israeli sources added. But Israeli sources said Iran also is receiving Chinese help in developing medium-range ground-to-ground missiles capable of striking Israel.

"This aid has been continuing," one source said.

Li, on a nearly week-long visit here, said he wanted closer cooperation with Israel, particularly in technology. He said China sought joint ventures with Israel for marketing to third countries rather than simply a contractor-client relationship.

"At this stage, we are not only considering to buy and sell," Li said. "The new concept is interna-

tional trade. We also can take advantage of both sides in expanding trade all over the world."

Li said China is interested in Israeli specialties in agriculture and electronics, especially in the communications field.

The vice premier was interviewed during a tour of ECI Telecom's new plant in Ofakim. ECI opened its new plant, designed to manufacture data communications equipment for China as part of a \$60 million project to connect Chinese cities to an information network. The ECI contract is part of a joint venture with Ji Tong Communications.

Ji Tong President Qi Mingqi, speaking through an interpreter, acknowledged that the communist Chinese government will ensure that the voice and data network will be monitored to prevent political dissidence. But he said the technology for such monitoring would be provided by his company rather than by ECI.

Levy to Mubarak: Release Azzam now

By LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

Foreign Minister David Levy called on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday to release Azzam Azzam, an Israeli citizen who is facing trial in Egypt on espionage charges.

"Release this man. He is innocent of all charges. He is guilty only of choosing to work in Egypt as an example of what it is possible to do in peace. And unfortunately, his arrest is not a good sign," Levy said in the Knesset plenum, during his answer to a motion to the agenda on Azzam's arrest.

Levy said Israel is doing everything it can to obtain Azzam's release. He said he had told the Egyptians that Azzam "is absolutely innocent. He is not a spy and the very charge is infuriating."

Azzam, an engineer who was working at an Israeli-owned textile plant in Cairo, was charged

with espionage on Monday, along with Egyptian citizen Emad Abdel-Hamid Ismail.

The indictment said Azzam confessed to taking underwear soaked in invisible ink from two Israeli women in exchange for \$650 and delivering it to Ismail, who was instructed to use the ink to write invisible messages about Egypt. It was not clear how this was to be accomplished.

Azzam could face the death penalty if convicted of espionage, although such a sentence is usually only handed down if Egypt is at war with the country that recruited the spies.

Relatives of Azzam met with members of the Knesset Interior Committee yesterday morning.

"We are demanding that the prime minister immediately provide answers on who he spoke with there because what we're hearing from Egypt is the exact opposite of our expectations," said his brother, Sami Azzam.

Committee chairman Sallah Tarif said immediate action is necessary. "It is time that we start demanding some respect for Israeli citizenship. This is an Israeli citizen who was thrown in an Egyptian jail for no reason," he said.

"Mubarak must understand that this will harm Israeli-Egyptian relations and even the peace process. We should recall our ambassador in Cairo. We should halt tourism to Egypt as it is dangerous for Israeli citizens, who could be thrown for no reason into the subhuman conditions of Egyptian prisons," Tarif said.

Also yesterday, the Foreign Ministry summoned Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny to express Israel's displeasure over the decision to charge Azzam.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Haim Cohen said Bassiouny was asked to come to the ministry to discuss the case, but no time had been scheduled.

German Greens Party leader here to cement ties with Left

By SUE FISHKOFF

Joschka Fischer, head of the Greens Party group in the German Bundestag, is here this week to strengthen parliamentary ties with local opposition parties.

Fischer met with Labor Party head Shimon Peres, Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon and others from Meretz and Labor. He said he was unable to arrange meetings with anyone in the coalition.

"They were too busy, or out of the country," he remarked.

The Greens Party has never been noted for its pro-Israel attitude, but that, Fischer said, has changed. Calling the Greens Party's first visit here in 1984 - when members expressed support for the PLO and antagonism towards Israel - a "scandal," Fischer noted that the Greens Party has "fundamentally changed its attitude and posi-

tion."

The old German communist-inspired leftists abandoned the Greens in 1990 after Germany's reunification, he said. In 1991 the party's spokesman, Christian Strobele, was forced to resign after a Gulf war visit to Israel during which he blamed Iraq's Scud missile attacks on Israel's Palestinian policy.

Following Germany's December 1994 elections, the new Bundestag Greens coalition chose to make Israel its first foreign visit in May 1995.

"It was a political decision we made, to correct old attitudes and build relations," he said. "We as young Germans must take full responsibility for our heritage, and clarify our position towards Israel. That means there cannot be any question of Israel's right to exist, as a Jewish state within secure borders. Relations

between Israel and the Greens are quite good now."

Fischer also met with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and other Palestinian leaders. He said the Palestinians he met this week were most concerned by policies regarding their identity cards and residence permits, which they fear are being changed to limit the number of Arabs living in Jerusalem. Palestinians also complained to him about human rights abuses by the PA, and expressed concern about the lack of democratic institutions in the Palestinian-controlled areas.

The Greens Party, which supports human and civil rights groups, funds several coexistence and environmental organizations here. Its Heinrich Boll Foundation plans to open offices in Tel Aviv and Ramallah in April.



Afternoon tea

Thai Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol joins Reuma Weizman for tea at Beit Hanassi yesterday. She is visiting this week to promote Thai-Israeli cooperation in cancer research. Today, Mahidol, who heads the Chulabhorn Research Institute in Bangkok, and Hebrew University president Hanoach Guttmann are to sign a memorandum of understanding for educational and scientific cooperation between the two institutions.

Suspect, 70, held in grenade murder

By DAVID RUDGE

Police have arrested a 70-year-old man, who is a member of Kibbutz Sde Nehemia in Upper Galilee, on suspicion of being responsible for the mysterious death in a grenade blast two months ago of another kibbutz member, Gad Metzger.

The police spokesman for the Galilee district said the suspect, who was arrested on Tuesday, was cooperating in the inquiries and had reconstructed the incident in front of police video cameras.

The spokesman said the suspect maintained

that he had thrown the grenade, which had been in his possession for seven years and was becoming unstable, in a direction he thought was safe.

He reportedly told police that it was pure coincidence that Metzger, who at the time was treasurer of the Upper Galilee regional council, happened to be there.

The police are continuing inquiries into the incident and investigating the suspect's version of the incident. The spokesman said the suspect would soon be brought before the courts for a remand hearing.

Metzger was found lying in a pool of blood

near the kibbutz's bicycle repair shop and died of wounds caused by the grenade blast.

The workshop where the suspect works is close to the bicycle repair shop where the blast occurred.

The suspect was originally brought to the Kiryat Shmona police station for questioning following complaints from an animal rights group that a man on the kibbutz had been seen drowning cats in a barrel of water.

He was released after questioning in connection with that incident, but police later received information connecting him to the grenade explosion.

New Defense Ministry order rekindles hope for Beit She'an Engines

By DAVID RUDGE

Representatives of the Histadrut and management of the troubled Beit She'an Engines factory are to meet with Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran today in a last-ditch effort to save the plant and the jobs of its 35 workers.

The Beit She'an factory, which overhauls engines of IDF vehicles, was shut two weeks ago due to insufficient orders and the employees were dismissed.

The Histadrut and the workers had planned to stage a demonstration outside the Defense Ministry's offices yesterday, but it was called off after talks between Histadrut representatives and Defense Ministry officials late Tuesday night led to the scheduling of today's meeting with Biran.

The number of orders was recently increased on the instructions of Defense Minister Yitzhak

Mordechai, following the intervention of Foreign Minister David Levy, who lives in Beit She'an.

Beit She'an Histadrut branch chairman Pinni Kabalo said, however, that the order placed by the ministry, for some 250 engines to be overhauled and refurbished,

would only keep the factory running for a few months.

On a separate matter, Kabalo said he had received assurances from the Trava company that it would not close its loss-making subsidiary, Milkman, in Beit She'an, at least until the end of this year.

Opposition shoves bills through first reading

By LIAT COLLINS

Yesterday's absence from the plenum of MKs from the Land of Israel Front helped the opposition get several bills through preliminary reading.

The caucus toured Har Homa and elsewhere, to demonstrate that its members do not feel bound to support the government.

One bill showed through by the opposition would abolish direct

elections for the prime minister. The bill, submitted by Moshe Shahal (Labor) passed by 23 votes to 2.

Another bill, submitted by Naomi Chazaa (Meretz), would enable Knesset committees to initiate removing a minister from office. It passed unanimously.

MK Rafael Edri (Labor) proposed a bill that would grant Knesset committees the right to

refuse to endorse senior appointments such as the chief of general staff, police chief, and state comptroller.

A bill that would transfer the jurisdiction of the rabbinic courts from the Religious Affairs Ministry to the Justice Ministry also passed preliminary reading despite government objections. The bill was jointly submitted by Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) and Dedi Zucker

(Meretz).

The Knesset also passed the second and third reading of an amendment to the Law on Slander, which broadens the definition of slander and libel to include slurs cast on someone's country of origin or sexual preferences.

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On the Agenda

1. Receiving the Financial Statement and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors for the year ended December 31, 1995.
2. Electing Directors.
3. Approving Director's Fees and attendance fees until the end of 1997, in accordance with Companies ordinance.
4. Appointing Auditors and fixing their remuneration.
5. Renewal of Directors and Officers Liability Insurance Policy for a period of another year.
6. Transacting any other business of the Company required to be dealt with at this meeting.

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If a quorum is not present within one hour of the designated time of the General Meeting or of a Meeting which is the result of a postponed one, the General Meeting will be further postponed to a time and place agreed upon by the Council.

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Come and Pick the Winner

Chinese leader Deng dies

By CHARLES HUTZLER

BEIJING (AP) - Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, died yesterday from an advanced stage of Parkinson's disease with complications of lung infections, the Chinese government said. He was 92.

Deng, a veteran Communist revolutionary who guided China from political chaos and economic ruin toward prosperity, leaves his political heirs in place.

No one is immediately expected to supplant Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin and the other younger, technocratic leaders backed by Deng.

But his death was expected to sharpen political maneuvering among top party leaders that has been going on behind the scenes for years.

Neither Jiang, Premier Li Peng nor the others have Deng's stature with the all-important military and remaining party elders. His successors will have to continue to rule by building consensus among the powerful constituencies.

Deng died yesterday afternoon of failed respiratory and circulatory functions after receiving emergency treatment, the state-run Xinhua News Agency said. An announcement was issued to all Communist Party, government and

military organs, Xinhua reported.

The announcement referred to "our beloved Comrade Deng Xiaoping." It gave his age as 93, although his birthday was previously given as Aug. 22, 1904.

A letter to party members said China's Central Committee proclaimed "with profound grief to the whole party, the whole army and the people of all ethnic groups throughout the country that our beloved Comrade Deng... passed away."

There were no signs of troop movements in Beijing early today but four armed guards with AK-47 stood outside the alley to Deng's home, near the palace China's emperors used for 500 years.

Flags were ordered down at half-staff at major landmarks in China and at its embassies overseas.

Xinhua also reported that foreign governments will not be invited to send delegations to the funeral, in keeping with China's practices.

US President Bill Clinton called Deng "an extraordinary figure on the world stage" for the past two decades and credited him with being "the driving force" behind China's decision to normalize relations with the United States.

Confirmation of Deng's death came after days of rumors that his health had worsened had spread

through the capital.

Deng, who weathered three political purges during his seven decades as a Communist Party member, rose to the pinnacle of power in 1978, two years after the death of his revolutionary mentor Mao Tse-tung.

He inherited a country paralyzed by fear and poverty after the decade-long Cultural Revolution, one of the ugliest periods in modern Chinese history in which millions were persecuted or killed for political reasons.

Deng immediately set about putting China on the road to a market economy, opening the nation to "the outside world" and encouraging the world's most populated country to set about making money.

"It doesn't matter if a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice," was his most famous saying.

He abolished farming communes, allowed some private enterprises and opened China to foreign investment by establishing special economic zones to produce goods for export.

Under his economic reforms in the 1980s, peasants and workers for the first time could afford such luxuries as televisions, refrigerators and washing machines.



Sachsenhausen train blaze

Firefighters stand in front of a burned-out rail car carrying fuel, that was damaged when two trains crashed in Frankfurt yesterday. The crash was in the residential district of Sachsenhausen and more than 300 people had to be evacuated. (Reuters)

Father killed children 'to keep them Jewish'

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) - In a surprise admission on the day his murder trial was to begin, a man sobbed as he told the judge how, he strangled his 12-year-old daughter and killed his 10-year-old son during a custody battle over their religious upbringing.

"I held my hands around her neck for about five minutes with my face pressed to hers," Avi Kostner told the court.

"I cried... 'Please forgive me. Please God forgive me,'" Kostner said he dragged the children and put them in the

back of a car. He killed the girl after she awoke but said couldn't bring himself to strangle the boy, so he gave him morph of a tranquilizer. He also used a hose to fill the car with its exhaust fumes.

Kostner, a taxi driver and part-time Hebrew teacher, surprised even his own lawyer when he suddenly asked to address the court after the judge had set the newly selected jurors to lunch.

He then pleaded guilty and confessed to the killings, which came during a battle over custody and whether the children

would be raised as Jews.

"We were not sure he was going to do this," said lawyer Cathy L. Waldor, who contends that Kostner is mentally ill.

Kostner, who could be sentenced to death, had admitted to police that in June 1994 that he killed his children and gave himself an overdose of tranquilizers.

He had discussed pleading guilty with his lawyers, but his admission in court still caught them by surprise, Ms. Waldor said.

Kostner, 52, was obsessed with raising his daughter, Geri Beth, and son, Ryan, as Jews. He told the court he wanted them to die as Jews.

His ex-wife, Lynn Mison, had converted back to Christianity after their divorce in 1988.

She and her new husband planned to move to Florida with the children, and she wanted Geri Beth and Ryan to decide their religion for themselves once they turned 18.

"No court had the right to take away what God had given me," Kostner said of a judge's order awarding custody to Ms. Mison.

The children's bodies were found covered by a sleeping bag in the back of a borrowed car idling in a parking lot near a police station.

Kostner was slumped unconscious over the steering wheel.

After treating the children to dinner, a movie and bowling that night, Kostner said he gave them the tranquilizer. Before he did so, he told them the pills were Vitamin C.

When Ryan began to stagger, Kostner said, he put both children in the car, started the engine and fed the exhaust into the cabin. He intended for himself and the children to die of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Albright: Cut NATO weapons

By BARRY SCHWEID

LONDON (AP) - US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is taking a proposal for reductions in NATO weapons ceilings to Moscow today in an effort to ease Russia's concerns with the projected eastward expansion of the military alliance.

Albright stopped here yesterday to discuss a range of concessions with British Prime Minister John Major, Defense Minister Michael Portillo and Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind.

The aim is to placate Russia with assurances that NATO is not the same alliance that confronted the Soviet Union during the Cold War. On her trip to Europe this week she has dismissed such fears as "old think." The NATO allies enjoy a 3-to-1 superiority over Russia in tanks and other non-nuclear forces in Europe. And they are actually below their permissible force ceilings.

Still, members of the US Congress who are wary of any military cutbacks, are apt to be critical of the offer. At the same time, some are skeptical of expanding NATO to Russia's westward border because of the costs involved.

The force ceilings were established in the Conventional Forces in Europe accords in 1990. As part of the conciliation, Russia is likely to get a green light to redeploy its tanks and other equipment to take NATO's expansion into account, administration officials said.

"No longer is NATO arrayed in opposition to any one country," Albright said in Brussels. "Its mission is peace and cooperation with all who wish to work with it."

Albright also was expected to discuss Northern Ireland's stalled peace process in her meetings with Major, Portillo and Rifkind.

In a bid to lessen Moscow's opposition to NATO's proposed expansion into Eastern Europe, Albright proposed in Brussels that

the alliance form a joint military brigade with Russia for peace-keeping operations in Europe.

Russian and NATO troops could also train together, Albright said, noting they were already working together to enforce the Bosnian peace accord.

Albright will take her ideas to Moscow today for talks with President Boris Yeltsin, Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and other Kremlin officials who are uniformly dubious about NATO's plans to expand to Russia's western border by 1999.

The Guardian in London quoted an unidentified British official yesterday as saying, "We don't

think it's realistic to expect the Russians to applaud NATO enlargement... But we don't think NATO should blink because they are turning up the volume." The Washington Times yesterday cites a classified CIA report that several prospective members - Poland, Slovenia and Bulgaria - are involved in arms sales to countries identified by the United States as sponsors of terrorism, including Iran and Iraq.

The newspaper said the most recent delivery of weapons took place in the summer when Poland shipped tanks and other equipment to Iran. The CIA report also cited a company in the former

Yugoslav republic of Slovenia that took part in supplying tank transmissions and other parts. The deliveries were halted when the United States protested, the report said.

Albright lived in Britain as a child before her family, who fled Czechoslovakia, went to the United States.

Pupils at a private girls' school in Kensington, west London, where Albright was a pupil during World War II, have been shown one of her old reports, the headmistress said.

"She was here for a very short time, about two terms in 1942-43," said headmistress Jill Lamsden.

Stasi man reveals Red Army plot

BERLIN (AP) - The first trial to delve into the long-alleged connection between West Germany's leftist Red Army Faction and the East German secret police opened yesterday with a surprise confession by a former Stasi German top agent.

Four former officers of the East German Stasi, are charged with helping spirit 10 Red Army Faction drop-outs out of West Germany in the early 1980s, giving them new identities and helping them build new lives in East Germany.

Former Col. Harry Dahl, who headed the Stasi's counter-terrorism division, admitted to his role in court, but denied he broke any laws.

He said he acted according to East German law on orders from the country's leader, Erich Honecker.

In addition, he charged Honecker and then-West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt had agreed to the plan beforehand and sworn each other to secrecy.



King Hussein visits Ireland

King Hussein of Jordan meets Irish President Mary Robinson at her Dublin residence yesterday on the first day of his visit to Ireland. He also held talks with Prime Minister John Bruton and deputy prime minister Dick Spring. The king was accompanied by Queen Noor and his daughter, Princess Haya, who went to Ireland 18 months ago to train as a showjumper. The princess intends to stay at the stud farm until the 2000 Olympics, in which she hopes to compete. (Reuters)

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Tour guide: Israel Shalem

Monday March 17
IRISES ARE BLOOMING IN GILBOA
Every year in March it happens. Irises cover Mt. Gilboa. They are the largest, most beautiful and colorful, and some are yellow. We'll visit Nahal Toot on the trail of lupins, the "Cyclamen Hill" of Gilad and Givat Hamoreh. Lunch at Kibbutz Tirat Zvi. NIS 185 (including lunch)
Tour guide: Hagar Leshner

Thursday April 3
ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY
In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitaliers Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land, the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more. NIS 175
Tour guide: Danny Syon

Thursday April 24
IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SANHEDRIN
The Bar-Kochba Revolt failed. 600,000 Jews died. Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews were sold as slaves, and Tora study came to an end. But a new center arose in the Galilee, and the towns of Zippori and Tiberias became famous. We'll visit them, as well as Beit Shearim, the burial place of Rabbi Yehuda Hanasi and his family. NIS 215 (including lunch)

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CAVEAT EMPTOR!

Burying those batteries

By RUTHIE BLUM

A couple of years ago there was a campaign to educate the public about battery disposal...

I recently received a letter from a concerned Tel Avivian complaining about no longer being able to find a store willing to collect discarded batteries.

"I keep warning people about the dangers of throwing them in the garbage," writes O.L., "but I feel foolish when I cannot tell them where to dump them. I end up collecting from others in anticipation of finding the store that will deal with them, and dispose of them in the correct way."

Both regular and rechargeable batteries contain materials which, when leaked, are extremely poisonous.

Regular disposable batteries contain chemicals which interact with one another to create electricity. Rechargeable batteries contain metals which store electricity when charged.

This kind is most commonly found in cheap toys which come with batteries included. It is imperative to dispose of this kind of battery as soon as it stops working.

Not only does the leakage which occurs subsequent to inertia damage the instrument it serves, but it can also be dangerous to people.

Alkaline batteries (better known to the consumer by brand names, such as "Duracell" and "Energizer") have a much longer shelf-life than "electrolite," and do not leak their chemicals after becoming inert.

When not in use, alkaline batteries lose about 10 percent of their "power" per year. As low temperatures slow down the chemical reactions occurring within these batteries, they are best stored in the refrigerator prior to use.

Lithium batteries are the most expensive of the disposables and have a very long shelf-life - up to 10 years when not in use.

Rechargeable batteries usually contain the metals nickel and cadmium, and can be recharged up to approximately 1,000 times before "dying."

According to an Environment Ministry fact sheet, every individual in Israel uses an average of nine batteries a year - just over one kilo per family of four per year.

material should be disposed of at the special dump for dangerous wastes at Ramat Hovav, though much of it ends up in other dump sites - which causes severe environmental damage...

All batteries other than Lithium contain some degree of mercury. When the body absorbs even low levels of mercury over a period of time, it is susceptible to motor problems, brain and kidney damage, and genetic disturbances.

Nickel is dangerous for the lungs. Silver can damage the skin. Lead is dangerous to the brain and bones.

Considering how incredibly harmful all of these chemicals and metals are to our bodies and our surroundings, it is a wonder that the pressure on the consumer to dispose of batteries in a responsible manner is not greater.

It is no less of a wonder that there is not a more widespread availability of conveniently located bins for consumers like O.L., who wish to perform this crucial civic duty.

Included in the ministry fact sheet are proposals for more efficient disposal, based on models in other countries. One of these proposals is to impose a deposit fee on batteries to be returned when the dead batteries are returned to the shops of purchase (similar to the deposit fee on soft-drink cans in the US).

According to Rami Danan, director of National Recycling and Source Reduction at the Environment Ministry's Solid Waste Management Department, used battery collection bins are located in various places throughout the country, including schools, photography shops, hardware stores, and large supermarkets.

If a battery disposal bin is not immediately apparent, ask for assistance. If, like O.L., you are unable to locate any such bins, do not throw your batteries into the regular trash. Instead, hang onto them and phone the district office of the Environment Ministry in your area.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

FLAIR

Yves Saint Laurent debuts in Tel Aviv

By GREER-FAY CASHMAN

Thirty-five years after he presented his first collection, Yves Saint Laurent has come to Tel Aviv. YSL has opened up in Kikar Medina, the upmarket fashion circle, where his neighbors include Kenzo, Gucci, Faconnable, Dolce e Gabbana, Louis Ferraud, Valentino, Christian Lacroix, Sonia Rykiel, Gianne Versace and Donna Karan, to name but a few.

Each of the designer boutiques are distinguished by their individuality of decor, no less than the garments that carry the handwriting of the designers, recognizable through color, silhouette or detail.

French transplant Mimitte Drommelshlager, who three years ago acquired the franchise to open Israel's first Christian Lacroix boutique, is also responsible for opening the first YSL boutique.

A second-generation Holocaust survivor, Drommelshlager's big ambition is to bring only the best of the best to Israel. "I believe in fashion," she said. "Fashion explains what culture is. My aim is to introduce luxury to Israel."

Drommelshlager had little trouble persuading Leon Cligman, the chairman of Indreco which has the controlling interest in YSL as well as in Christian Lacroix and Claude Montana, to respond positively to her application to open the store.

The two-story boutique will carry a full line of YSL as well as his Rive Gauche collection.

It also has a limited range of YSL accessories, but will not carry the YSL fragrance and cosmetic lines. "We wanted to first establish a ladies' boutique because this is the Yves Saint Laurent flagship in Israel," explained debonaire YSL licensee director Pierre Levy.

Saint Laurent's monumental talent lies in constantly reinventing his own style. This gives his clothes both familiarity and panache.

Two of his favorites which he is trotting out again are the safari jacket and the leopard-print pants.

The androgynous pants suit with the distinctive shoulder lines also resurfaces in snappily striped, mini-checked and manna-chromed updated versions.

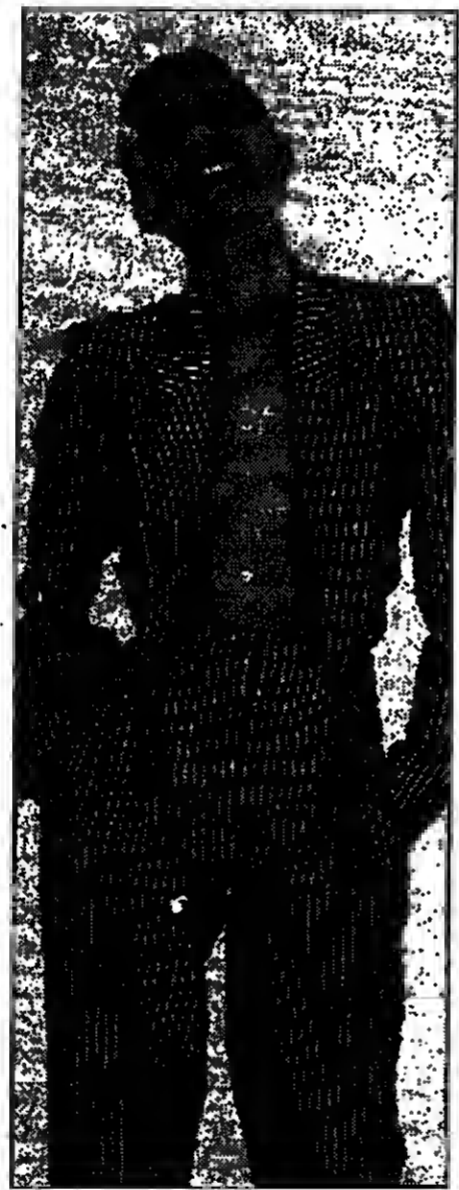
The drama and romance of the versus buckle belt has not escaped Saint Laurent who has included a large selection of tie-belted dresses and jackets in both his couture and Rive Gauche collections.

The simple little sleeveless dress, which was so popular in the 1970s, may find an even greater following in the late 1990s. The cut and the finish of YSL's little black dress are divine.

But for those who prefer to wear more colorful clothes, the dress also comes in a choice of colors, as well as in black-handled color blocks of red, white, blue and yellow.

Sailor-boy lacing adds a sporty touch to hip-length jackets and mid-high dresses. Pants are both narrow and wide-legged, and the marvelous thing is that although the boutique is fairly compact, it does hold tremendous variety, running the gamut from classic elegance to casual chic.

Although one shouldn't be buying if one has to ask the price, even those who can afford it like to have some advance warn-



Above it all: Casual belted jacket and snappy striped suit.



Less is more: A little summer shift at NIS 2,800.



On the wild side: Leopard-print pants and safari jacket.

ing of what a visit is likely to cost them. A skimpy ribbed sweater with a deep décolletage is priced at NIS 980.

A tailored suit in fine, summerweight wool will set you back NIS 6,680 and a silk suit NIS 5,280. The neat little sleeveless dresses are NIS 2,780.

It's unlikely that anyone on a basic wage

will be able to put enough together to buy a new YSL outfit, but bear in mind that the people who spend upwards of NIS 5,000 are extremely limited in the number of times they can wear their purchases and many of their clothes quickly find their way to second-hand stores where they can be snapped up for peanuts.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

CORDLESS MIXER - Hamilton Beach, NIS 120. Main, 02-649-8014. 4-BURNER GAS STOVE TOP - Rustler, in good condition, NIS 300. o.b.o. 08-936-5757. COLLECTION OF 10 BOOKS ON CACTI - in Dutch, NIS 100 for the lot. 07-672-1454. WINTER COAT - men's, dark grey, small size, worn once, NIS 100. 02-908-6048. 3 1/2" DISKETTES - NIS 2 1/2 each; 5 1/4 diskettes, NIS 2 each - new, guaranteed 5 years, Nassim make. 09-882-8985, Cacl. ANSWERING MACHINE - brand new, Phonemaster 3500, NIS 350. 02-571-1710, NS. PURIM CARDS FROM YAD SARAH - NIS 18 pays for a gift basket to a needy old person. 02-641-4425, or 43 Hanevi'im St., Jerusalem. FISHER PRICE CAR SEAT - excellent condition, NIS 200; Inglesina smock/dresses (2 pairs), NIS 150. 02-534-5191. DOUBLE RADIOTAPE - new, Sanyo, NIS 300. 02-623-5879; before 10 p.m. PERFUMES - unopened gifts: "Creations," Ted Lapidus, NIS 100; Oscar De la Renta, NIS 100; Jean Paul Gaultier, NIS 100. 02-673-3741, NS, even. T.E.S.L. TEXTBOOKS & CASSETTES - newly purchased in England, complete set, NIS 30 each or NIS 150 for set. 02-672-3308, NS. 3 WINTER HATS - new, NIS 30 each; women's hats, NIS 20 each. 02-561-1240, NS. SOFA - 3 pillows, good condition, NIS 200; 2 dust ruffles for single beds, both NIS 35. 02-643-1837. SOFA - in good condition, NIS 300. 02-566-0598. SUREX KODESH - NIS 10 to NIS 50 each. 02-653-6764. ATWA WALKMAN - auto reverse, radio, multi-speed processor, in box, NIS 200. 02-652-0977, NS. SOUTHERN PHONE - with answering machine, digital counter plus remote, new, NIS 330. 02-532-2894, NS.

SINGLE BED - wood, NIS 200; extendable kitchen table, NIS 150. 02-586-3839, NS. DOUBLE BREASTED OLIVE SUIT - size 32, NIS 300; jeans, NIS 50 - like new. 02-566-9004. GAP WOOL SWEATER - women's, lavender, with white design, new from US, size medium, NIS 70. 02-852-1157, NS. STEREO SYSTEM - RECORD PLAYER - tuner (Fisher) and tape deck (Harman-Kardon), very good condition, NIS 350. 02-641-3377, NS. U.S. TAX BOOK - J.K. Lasser's Your Income Tax 1997, new, still in original wrapping, NIS 60. 02-679-4054, NS. AMERICAN PLAYPEN - NIS 150; Corzelle coffee maker, new, NIS 100; suitcase, NIS 100. 02-642-3351. ATTACHE CASE - black leather, new, NIS 175. 02-534-6018. 2 BAMBOO DINING-ROOM CHAIRS - with fabric cushions, good condition, NIS 125 each. 02-536-1352. COMPLETE BED LINEN SET - including comforter; for double bed, new, NIS 300 o.b.o. 02-652-2795, NS. SALTIN HOT TRAY FOOD WARMER - including transformer, NIS 100; step-down transformer, 100 & 1600 each - all in excellent condition. 02-563-0746. "GOLDEN BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA" - NIS 150, Fisher Price car seat, NIS 60; rollerblades, for kids, NIS 60. 02-566-1195. ELECTRIC RADIATOR - 20 ribs, NIS 288; hair removal kit, 7 oz. package, NIS 48. 02-561-7257. GLOVES - warm, water repellent, especially for scooter rides or skiers, size small, NIS 100 o.b.o. 02-651-0243, NS. GENIUS OP9990H ELECTRONIC DIARY - Hebrew and English, memory 128 KB, excellent condition, hardly used, needs battery, NIS 350. 02-560-6012. JENSBERG'S LEGENDS OF THE JENSBERG - NIS 75; accordion, 120 base, NIS 200. 02-563-2333. HALOGEN CEILING LAMP - NIS 75; box of sheet music for violin, free; outdoor clothes dryer, NIS 25. 02-643-1837.

WINDOWS '95 - Hebrew version, diskette, new in box, NIS 350. 02-583-0608. MULLINEK GRILL OVEN - as new, NIS 175; microwave, NIS 20. 02-581-8013. WINTER CLOTHES - coat, suit, skirt, sweaters, 7 items at NIS 50 each. 02-563-2138. HAIR DRYER - NIS 50; toaster oven, good condition, NIS 120; blue lamp, NIS 30; women's raincoat, NIS 70. 02-625-3104. TWIN STROLLER - Prego Peg, on springs, sun hood, excellent condition, NIS 280. 02-593-3313. IBM COMPATIBLE PC 386 - with hard disk and printer (Proctor), NIS 300 o.b.o. 02-586-4312. ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA - 1933, NIS 350 o.b.o. 02-652-4982. BOOKS - Dreams Come True, NIS 18; FBI or FBI, NIS 12. 02-624-5560. BABY SLING CARRIER - over-the-shoulder baby holder, new, versatile, NIS 140. 02-652-1788, NS, not after 9:30 p.m. WINTER COAT - purple, with rabbit fur lining, hardly worn, women's size medium, NIS 300. 02-571-3092. ICE SKATES - size 38, NIS 100; 2 pairs ski-boots, size 38 and 42, NIS 100 each - all in excellent condition. 02-563-0746. "GOLDEN BOOK ENCYCLOPEDIA" - NIS 150, Fisher Price car seat, NIS 60; rollerblades, for kids, NIS 60. 02-566-1195. ELECTRIC RADIATOR - 20 ribs, NIS 288; hair removal kit, 7 oz. package, NIS 48. 02-561-7257. GLOVES - warm, water repellent, especially for scooter rides or skiers, size small, NIS 100 o.b.o. 02-651-0243, NS. GENIUS OP9990H ELECTRONIC DIARY - Hebrew and English, memory 128 KB, excellent condition, hardly used, needs battery, NIS 350. 02-560-6012. JENSBERG'S LEGENDS OF THE JENSBERG - NIS 75; accordion, 120 base, NIS 200. 02-563-2333. HALOGEN CEILING LAMP - NIS 75; box of sheet music for violin, free; outdoor clothes dryer, NIS 25. 02-643-1837.

TV GAME - Micro-Genius with 2 remote controls and 2 games, NIS 150. 02-581-4817, NS. ANICOR PERSONAL COOLER - NIS 100; humidifier, NIS 25; National Geographic, NIS 3 each; electric oil radiator, NIS 90. 02-566-9577, NS. ALGAE-ALFA AND OMEGA TABLETS - one month's supply, NIS 110. 02-538-6375. CASSIOTO BEBLE - complete, NIS 350. 02-651-1932. JANET JACKSON CD - new, unopened, NIS 60. 02-622-1764, NS. BAILEY'S IRISH CREAM LIQUEUR - NIS 100; Emmet's Irish Cream Liqueur, NIS 90; 3 suitcases, brown, NIS 20 each. 02-651-4178. FISHER-PRICE HIGH CHAIR - never used, new in box, NIS 250. 02-561-9863, NS. 3 SUPER NINTENDO GAMES - disc included, NIS 90 each. Surplus, 02-676-6589. ELECTRO HANAN HEATER - NIS 60; crystal wine bottle, NIS 75; Oster meat grinder attachment, NIS 100. 02-651-9860, NS. NUTRAMIGREN - unopened can, expiration April '98, NIS 40; auto radio, AM, 5 pre-select stations, NIS 45. 02-537-4033, NS.

WANTED ROCKER FOR MOTHER - in good condition, 08-947-0193, NS. STRONGBOX - office furniture; Jewish books in English or Russian for Ascent, non-profit outreach organization, will pay reasonable prices. 06-692-1364. CD ROM - modern, and bean-bag chair for physical therapy, needed by Gan Harmony, Kimberly 02-563-4029. SUSAN TREADMILL - good condition. 02-586-3571, NS. SONY COLOR TV - any condition, non-worker; also bridges, inclines and piers for model railroad. 02-586-0113. COUCH - bicycle for 5-year-old; Lazy Boy - all in good condition. 02-643-6371. SECOND-HAND DOUBLE BUGGY - preferably McLaren, in good condition, preferably with rain cover. 02-586-5040. WEIGHING SCALES FOR CHEMICALS - accurate to 1/10 gram. 02-533-2387. DINING-ROOM SET - classic or antique, that seats 12 comfortably; leather living-room set, excellent condition only. 02-651-9225, 10:30 p.m. - 1 a.m., or leave message, NS. SEIKI-BUTTON - or folding bed, made of 3 linked foam rubber sections, will pay cash or trade two sturdy single beds. 02-652-1641. FILING CABINET - for volunteer red-safety organization. 02-561-0023. TOSHIBA T2908SX - preferably operating, for break-up into spares - needs good screen. 02-641-1212, ext. 68, mornings or evenings. WASHING MACHINE - msa work well. 02-581-0013. TOYS AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS - for 2-year-old boy. 02-625-8741. COLOR TV - in good condition. 02-561-0746. BOOKSHELF - coffee table, dining table, children's bicycle, carpets, floor lamp, computer desk. 02-671-8811, NS. LAPTOP COMPUTER - for innovative home-care program for elderly, Sheila or Leah. 655-5049 or 655-5198. SWIVEL OFFICE CHAIR - with adjustable height settings. 02-566-0788. FILE CABINET - stand-up, 4-drawer with lock and key. 02-537-4033, NS. KEREN KLITA - seeks furniture for new ohm, will collect. 02-678-8277, NS.

PETS FEMALE DOG - neutered, vaccinated, healthy, friendly, aged 1 1/2, to loving home. 07-995-3214. ZEBRA FINCHES - We'd like to sell males, buy females, or make an exchange. 02-585-9702. KITTEN - lovable, gentle female, gray, vaccinated, "indoor" pet, for quiet, adult home. 02-561-7890, NS. SMALL MIXED-BREED PUPPIES - for good homes. 02-533-7129. BABY BUNNIES - beautiful, healthy, born Jan. 1, honey and white, NIS 30. 02-652-8626.

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The PA in Jerusalem

The cabinet earlier this week decided once again to postpone discussing the issue of Palestinian Authority institutions in Jerusalem. There are indications that once it does get around to doing so, it will decide to close five relatively minor offices. It would do well to give some thought as to why similar steps taken in the past did not effectively strengthen Israel's standing in Jerusalem...

appears that the current government is following in its footsteps. In the past, Israeli governments have sent policemen to close down the smallest institutions and those least connected to the PA, such as the Palestinian Geographic Institute and the offices of members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, which turned out to be lounges within their own homes. After temporarily appearing to comply with the police orders, these institutions quietly reopened after the media storm passed.



Too hot to handle

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

Information has reached this column in Washington that Binyamin Netanyahu, very delicately, let President Clinton know that he shouldn't even think about extraditing Hamas terrorist mastermind Mousa Abu Marzook to Israel.

Both Israel and the PA have asked for Abu Marzook. But King Hussein is the only one who knows what to do with him

US intelligence sources reveal that he will reside in a private house and enjoy a carefully-controlled 'liberty' under strict security safeguards. He will be free to potter around the garden, to grow onions and carrots, but not to do much else.

Special status

AUSTIN BAY

You don't need to visit Israel to appreciate the nation's intricate security issues, but every soldier knows that actually walking the battlefield often yields decisive insights into a conflict's military facets and human, psychological dimensions.

Israelis face a greater risk than land for peace

PA cops and Israeli soldiers convinced many Israelis that a Palestinian statelet will never be a reliable security partner. One Israeli man assured me: 'No matter what agreement you Americans force on us and Arafat, the PA police will once again turn their guns on us.'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

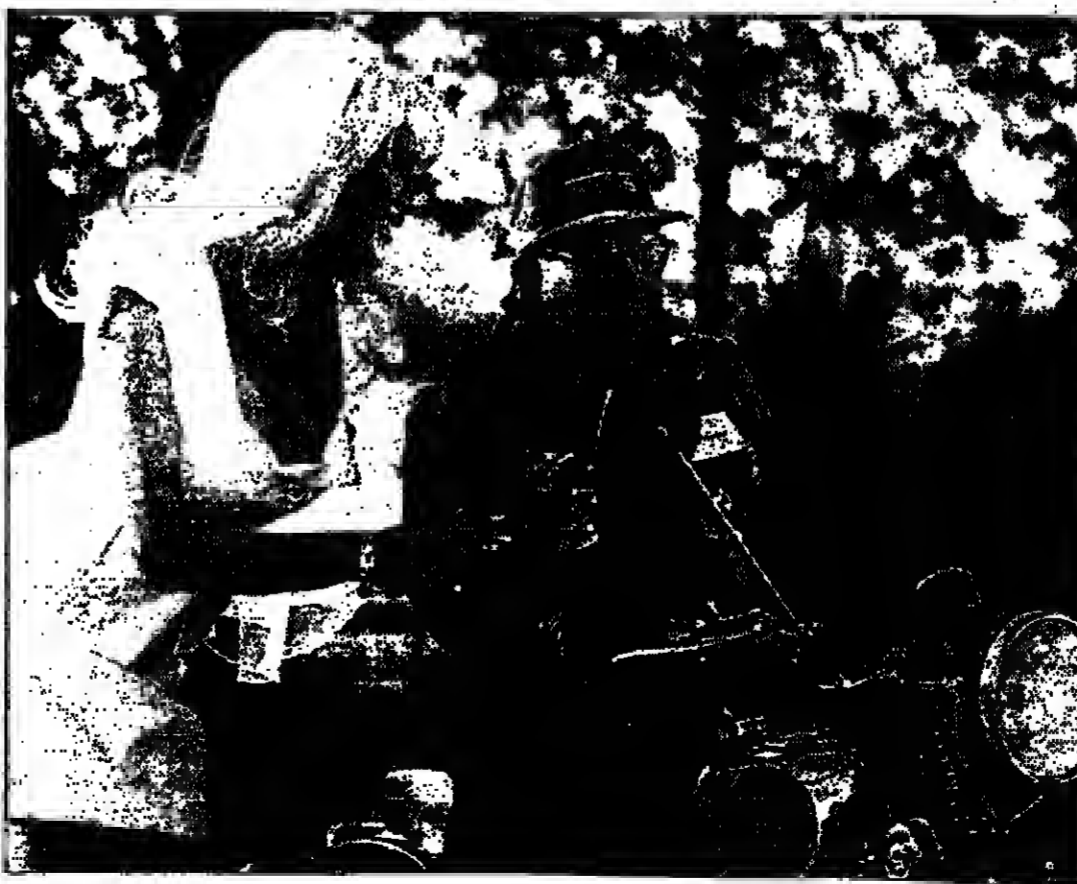
EBAN'S MEMORY

Sir, - It appears that time has not been good to Abba Eban's memory if his article, 'Unfreeze the Syrian track' (February 14), is indicative of his current position on the peace process. Eban endorses the centrality of Syria in the current peace process, and castigates traditional Likud positions concerning the importance of the Golan to Israel's security as unfeasible.

Inexorably, Eban does not apply the same standard to the positions of the current Likud government. Syria, as in the case of Egypt in 1971, has demanded full Israeli withdrawal to the June 4, 1967, lines. Assad has made the same demand for equal zones of demilitarization as did Sadat in 1971. Syria's positions concerning the type of peace Israel can expect are certainly as unsatisfactory as were Sadat's. Syria has consistently exhibited the same 'take it or leave it' attitude as did Egypt in 1971. Moreover, Assad has categorically rejected virtually all of Israel's proposals for normalization and security arrangements.

historical regional strategic objectives, despite the fact that such an assumption goes far beyond anything Assad has ever said or done. Eban declares that the times demand realism. Indeed, that is probably why the majority of Israelis voted against the candidate who had 'become tired of history,' and believed that reality was 'not what existed today, but what would exist tomorrow.' Finally, Eban was disingenuous when he referred to the Likud position of keeping all of the Golan as unrealistic and stated that Netanyahu should 'maneuver within the range of feasibility.' Eban, given Assad's intransigent stand concerning the Golan, must realize that the only feasible way Israel will achieve any type of agreement with Syria is by a full withdrawal to the June 4, 1967, lines. Assad has not wavered from this demand, and, unfortunately it gained legitimacy through its acceptance from the last Israeli government.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Never mind her; he's the subject of the picture. Len Vale-Onslow is contending for the record of world's oldest licensed motorcyclist. He's 97. She's just a model acting as Len's pillion passenger. Wonder if his insurance covers such risks?

Tom
premon
Coping
premon
The writer, an author, contributes a regular international affairs column to US newspapers.

From would-be inventor to wanted man

A Cairo entrepreneur seeking political asylum offers his anti-terrorist device to the Defense Ministry, Sue Fishkoff reports

HESHAM Soliman is in quite a precarious situation. An Egyptian national who describes himself as an engineer and a pilot, Soliman is booted up in a rundown apartment in Tel Aviv.

He is on the run from Egyptian authorities who he claims want him dead, and meanwhile he waits to see whether the Defense Ministry is interested in an anti-terrorist device he invented.

It's a bit of a complicated story, and it's no wonder Soliman looks a little frazzled.

Soliman says he holds a degree in interior design and decorating from a university in Missouri, worked as a pilot for a large American company, and used to have his own business in the US. He now owns an import-export business in Cairo under whose auspices he arrived in Israel six months ago to pursue an export deal with Polymer Gvulot, the polymer factory at Kibbutz Gvulot.

But his real goal, he says, is to interest the government in an anti-terrorist system he has invented. He proposes his system, which involves x-rays and immobilizing drugs, to thwart bus bombings and plane hijackings.

He received an Israeli patent on the system last year, wrote to the Defense Ministry and Prime Minister's Office, and is awaiting their reply.

Meanwhile, his visa expired five months ago. He lives rent-free in a dilapidated apartment in central Tel Aviv which he repaired in exchange for living privileges, and he supports himself by working as a night guard and by doing odd renovation jobs.

He wants two things, he says: to sell his invention to the Israeli government in order to foil further terrorist acts, and to obtain political asylum here, or in any other country, so as not to be deported back to Egypt where he claims his life is in danger. For that reason, he does not want his address published.

Holding up a paper diagram of a bus, Soliman explains how his invention works. X-ray machines positioned at the front entrance of the bus survey every entering

passenger, and are able to detect a person carrying an explosive device.

The driver allows the suspect to sit, and then pushes a button which activates air-conditioning vents above the suspect's seat and on the seat back in front of him.

The vents emit a vapor that immediately immobilizes the suspect, and keeps him immobile for eight hours. Police or security agents can then safely remove him.

Soliman will not divulge the name of the vapor his system uses, saying only that it is "harmless and ordinary, something people use daily all over the world."

"Seeing the kids who were killed on the bus No. 18 bombings broke my heart. So I worked for months to come up with this security device."

He claims it will only immobilize the person at which it is aimed, and will not affect other passengers.

The same system can be used on planes, with the difference that when the pilot activates the air-conditioning vents, everyone in the passenger cabins will be immobilized for hours.

"Hijackers rarely work alone, and you don't know which other passengers might be accomplices," he states.

It can also be used to protect buildings from hostage takers, he says, and by private persons to protect their cars from being stolen.

His patent also covers a safety device for airplanes which involves a huge rubber raft-like object that can be inflated to protect the bottom of the aircraft in the event of a forced ground

landing, or used as a flotation device if a plane must land suddenly on water.

WHAT PROMPTED this invention? The bombing of Egged bus No. 18 in Jerusalem last year, he says.

"I watched it on TV, saw the little kids who were killed, and it broke my heart," he says. "So I sat down and worked for months to come up with this security device."

Why didn't he offer it to his own government? "Egypt doesn't have the same problem of suicide bus bombers or plane hijackings," he explains. "In Egypt, [the terrorists] shoot you."

Soliman says he can't return to Egypt. Even before he came to Israel, he was questioned by the Egyptian authorities, he says. After his story was first publicized in the Israeli media, Egyptian papers began calling him a spy, which he says means there is a threat against his life.

"The Egyptian government has asked for my extradition," he says. "If I am deported, the minute I land at the Cairo airport I will be picked up. If they decide I'm guilty, I could be hanged."

A January 31 article in the Arabic-language Nazareth newspaper *Kol el-Arab* quotes a spokesman for the Egyptian Embassy saying they had to "check into the story."

Soliman's attorney, Tel Aviv lawyer Moshe Cohen, says he has put the visa question on hold while he waits for a response from the Defense Ministry regarding Soliman's invention.

Cohen says someone from the ministry called him after receiving Soliman's query, and asked Cohen to send more information, including the registration number for the patent.

Cohen did so, and has not heard back.

The only written reply Soliman has received so far was a formal letter from the Prime Minister's Office last July, thanking him for his correspondence.

Next week, Soliman says he will seek a patent for a device designed to protect people in a car that catches fire. Upon impact, four balloons inflate around each person in the car,



Egyptian-born Hesham Soliman demonstrates his scheme for foiling bus bombers.

(Jonathan Bloom)

completely enveloping them in a fire-resistant protective shield. Soliman has seven further inventions yet to be patented.

"It's a strange story," says Igal Gilboa of Polymer Gvulot. Gilboa says Soliman contacted them two years ago with a proposal to bring their product to Egypt through his import-export company. They speak on the

phone to this day, but Gilboa says the kibbutz factory "came to the conclusion a long time ago" that they were not interested in his proposal.

Soliman says people "approach me all the time" to buy his security device but he's only interested in selling it to a government that "will use it to save lives, not to take them."

He says he met last week with the Japanese ambassador to offer his system as an aid to resolving the Pcur hostage crisis. A spokeswoman for the Japanese embassy could not confirm the meeting, and said her embassy "was not interested in any such device."

It's hard to assess the value of Soliman's invention. What's not hard to assess is his

desperation, and his fear of returning to Egypt, where his mother, brother and other family members live. He contacted the UN to ask for protection as a refugee, and was told he didn't qualify.

"All I'm asking is to be allowed to live," he says, "and continue to work on my projects."

DEAR RUTHIE

Coping with premonitions

By RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, I've always had a bit of a tendency to see, hear, or know certain things about the future. I've never talked much about this tendency, because it's private. But, on December 17, 1995, I had a very strong premonition about a war erupting here within two years - involving Iran and Iraq. I also felt very strongly that I had to collect food items. I then had the urge to talk about my premonition with others for the first time. Most people I told were ambivalent, or didn't believe a word. I can understand them, since I'm not much of a believer in the supernatural myself. Nevertheless, I considered it my duty to inform the Prime Minister's Office about it a few months ago, as well as the Jerusalem Post, asking that it be forwarded to intelligence agencies. Just over a year has passed and I've started collecting extra food, just to be on the safe side. I keep telling myself that I might be wrong about it, and try to relax. But, since my premonitions always seem to come true, I am having difficulty doing so. Do I have to convince others around me that they should prepare themselves? I'm afraid people will laugh at me behind my back if I advise them to stock up on certain items. I console myself with the thought that perhaps a few days before it's going to happen, I will feel it and then start talking to everybody about it. But will that be enough? On the other hand, why should I make people apprehensive beforehand? Perhaps it isn't even true. Or perhaps it will be clear enough to everyone by then anyway. But I am also afraid that if terrible carnage and suffering occurs, I will be absolutely dev-

astated by guilt because I didn't have the courage to warn enough people in time to save lives.

Please, Ruthie, take me seriously, and advise me about what I should or should not do in this case.

ESP Exasperated Kibbutz T.Y.

Dear Forewarning Frustrated, Though ill equipped to determine the validity of your premonition, I can help you to deal with the distress you are suffering as a result of it.

Judging by the reactions of people with whom you have shared this "information," the likelihood of anyone taking your warnings seriously enough actually to act upon them (by stocking up on food, for example) is minimal.

Furthermore, though intelligence agencies throughout the world have been known, on occasion, to utilize the telepathic powers of certain well-known psychics (such as Uri Geller), it is doubtful that any official body would conduct a follow-up investigation relating to premonitions provided by someone they've never heard of before.

As a result, if there's one thing you really can relax about, it's the guilt.

On the other hand, since a large part of your distress is connected to your sense of civic duty, you may as well share your feelings with those people who are willing at least to listen to you without ridicule.

Take comfort in the fact that even if you are right, there would be little anyone could do to avoid harm without the protection of "worldly" forces.

At this point, it seems as though the best you can do is hope that you are wrong, and protect yourself and your loved ones as you see fit in the meantime, and to the best of your ability in a year from now if your premonition comes true.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

The glass fibers that connect the world

More than any other technology, fiber optics has brought about the phenomenal increase in the flow of information around the globe.

Gossamer strands of ultra-pure glass delivering voice, video, and computer data at laser-like speed have replaced copper as the backbone of America's telephone and cable television networks. They are spurring the rapid growth of the Internet, the rush of facsimiles, and the emergence of teleconferencing and high-definition TV. And within 10 years, this dazzling conduit to communications' most distant frontiers could be hooked up to individual homes.

"People are saying, finally, that the change from the Industrial Revolution to the Information Revolution is happening, and fiber optics is driving it," said Govind Agrawal, a professor of optics at the University of Rochester.

Finding a practical way to transmit messages using light instead of electricity - a puzzle that Alexander Graham Bell began unraveling in 1880 - came about in a solitary setting at Corning Glass Works in August 1970.

It was late on a Friday, after the laboratory had emptied, and scientist Donald Keck tried

shining a laser beam through yet one more sample of glass drawn into a hair-thin fiber 200 meters long. Bending over a microscope, he slowly began to align the helium neon laser with the fiber's infinitesimal core. All of a sudden, the pinpoint light hit him square in the eye. It had raced all the way along the glass, bounced off the far end and sailed right back.

On every previous attempt stretching back two long years, the signal-carrying light pulses had quickly dissipated. "In that moment was truly the thrill of discovery," said Keck, still chuckling at the memory.

Optical fiber communications at last seemed within reach. The other key equation, room-temperature laser, was developed just three months later by Bell Telephone Laboratories.

Although it took Corning another 12 stubborn years to land its first big order, fiber optics is now its largest and fastest-growing business.

The Fortune 500 materials company, renamed Corning Inc. in 1989, churns out more than 8 million kilometers of optical fiber each year, capturing by far the biggest chunk of the global market. As with many innovations, fiber optics is finding unintended

uses, from zapping tumors and gallstones to betraying the intruder vibrating the tiny sensor painted to the wall. And leave it to scientists to dream up magical spinoffs - detecting minute defects in bridges, guiding cars along the interstate, performing surgery-by-phone to remote regions (with help from robotics, perhaps).

Already, more than 96 million kilometers of fiber have been installed worldwide. That much can handle more information than all the billions of kilometers of copper laid down over the last century.

Where a digital copper cable relays as many as 24 simultaneous telephone conversations, or 64,000 hits of information per second, a single optical fiber of the newest variety can handle at least 200,000 phone conversations - or upwards of 10 billion hits a second.

Next to fiber optics, even microwave-satellite transmission pales by comparison.

In fact, what was once the Holy Grail - a terabit pulsing a trillion hits per second - was arrived at in the laboratory this year. For a fiber to handle 20 million phone calls all at once, the data is relayed along dozens of wavelengths that don't interfere with each other.

The technology has advanced at hyper-

speed impelled by the deregulation of the US telecommunications industry in 1982. First came the battles between AT&T Corp. and newcomers like MCI and Sprint to lay down national fiber grids. That spawned regional networks. The next step will be bringing fiber all the way into the home.

The cost is still considered too high. One cable TV operator guesstimated at roughly \$2,000 a customer. But by splitting signals along wavelengths, the price will inevitably be split, too, and some think the fiber-optic home is just five to 10 years away.

What would people do with all that information capacity? For a start, they could begin downloading "lots of images and video on the Internet," a task that requires enormous capacity, said Joe Campbell, a professor of electrical and computer engineering with the University of Texas at Austin.

"If you give people video on demand and they can watch a movie, they're going to want to be able to watch three different movies at the same time. And maybe they would like it in high-definition TV. Then they're going to want home video shopping. The list just goes on and on. "People just always want more features and more functions." (AP)

book department

The Cambridge Illustrated History of BRITISH THEATRE

by Simon Trussler

Lavishly illustrated in the best tradition of the Cambridge University Press, this 404 pp. volume presents a social and cultural history of Britain as much as a description of actors, directors, designers and authors.

From the early Middle Ages to contemporary times and themes, the author describes early forms of drama and religious ceremony and weaves the history of social and political forces which shaped theatre.

Selected contents include: The Era of the Outdoor Playhouses; The Restoration Theatre; Romance and Realism; The War and The Long Weekend; Theatre and the Marketplace.

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Books, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000

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book department

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by Aviva Bar-Am and Yisrael Shalem

Renowned travel writer Aviva Bar-Am has teamed up with guide Yisrael Shalem for this up-to-date, full color guide to the Golan and its environs. Incorporates a unique English-Hebrew dictionary of the Golan's flora and fauna, local legends, and vital information about sites. Softcover, 152 pp.

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BUSINESS

in brief

Canadian trade minister to visit next week

Canadian International Trade Minister Arthur Eggleton will lead a delegation of 60 Canadian industrialists on a four-day visit to Israel next week. The delegation's tour will include companies operating in the construction, food, fashion, healthcare, telecom, high-tech, transport and wood products sectors. The purpose of the visit is to encourage increased trade between Canada and Israel, Israel-Canada Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Yehuda Ravich said.

Two-way trade between the countries, which totalled \$330 million last year, is expected to grow due to the recently signed free-trade agreements between Jerusalem and Ottawa.

Jennifer Friedlin

January retail sales up slightly

Sales in retail chains rose by 0.7 percent last month from December, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday. January's growth rate, which is similar to December's, translates into an annual expansion pace of between 3% and 9%. Last year, however, total sales among the large retailers rose 16%.

Jerusalem Post Staff

EU vets extend export ban on Dutch pigs

The Netherlands yesterday greeted a European Union decision to extend an export ban on Dutch pigs because of swine fever as "understandable" in view of recent further outbreaks. EU veterinary experts earlier voted to maintain the ban for a further week after fresh outbreaks of swine fever in the south of the country, believed originally to have been caused by animals imported from Germany.

Reuter

COMPANY RESULTS

Elbit Vision net income at \$1.2 million

Elbit Vision Systems Ltd.'s net income last year totalled \$1.2 million, including a one-time royalty payment of \$823,000, compared to a net loss of \$25,000 in 1995. Revenues for the year increased 64 percent to \$16.5m. from \$10.1m.

In the fourth quarter, net income jumped 188% to \$1.1m. from \$372,000 for the same period in 1995. Net sales for the quarter increased 66% to \$6.1m. from \$3.7m.

The automatic vision inspection systems maker said the results reflect the company's success in marketing its systems overseas. The company's systems are designed to increase the accuracy and speed of the identification of defects in the textile-manufacturing process. Elbit Vision Systems is one of the three divisions that Elbit Ltd. recently spun off into a separate, independently-traded entity.

Jennifer Friedlin

Teledata Communications recovers from the red

Teledata Communications of Herzliya entered the black last year with net income of \$7m., compared with a net loss of \$1.2m. in 1995. For the year, the company's revenues rose 78% to \$57.1m. from \$32.1m.

Teledata, which designs products for telecom networks, reported an increase in fourth quarter net income to \$2.4m. from \$720,000 during the same period last year.

This figure includes a \$400,000 write-off for the company's investment in its newly established subsidiary, G-Connect Ltd. Revenues for the quarter jumped 95% to \$19.6m. from \$10m.

Jennifer Friedlin

New owner may order halt of Shabbat activity at Africa Israel

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Africa Israel's new controlling shareholder, Orthodox diamond merchant Lev Leviev, has told the holding company to explore the extent to which its sprawling real estate, tourism and industrial holdings may be violating Shabbat, senior company sources confirmed yesterday.

Leviev became Africa Israel's major shareholder last November, after having bought a 46-percent stake for \$189 million.

The company was spun off by Bank Leumi in accordance with the newly revised restrictions of the Banking Law on the banks' ownership of non-financial holdings.

At the time of the purchase, Leviev said he would make no changes in the company during the first six months.

Recently, Africa Israel appointed Benny Lerner to verify that the company is not violating Halacha.

"[Leviev] purchased the company; he has money and operates

according to the best of his understanding and considerations," according to Avigdor Kaplan, the company's new general manager.

Kaplan said the company is mainly concerned with the operation of its new Ramat Aviv shopping mall on Shabbat.

The operation of the mall's entertainment facilities and restaurants on Shabbat is likely to offend the religious community, he said, adding that "there is a new owner, and for this reason it is necessary to examine the religious implications."

Most of the company's subsidiaries, from hotels (Holiday Inn) to parking lots, do not violate Halacha, he said, adding that Africa Israel does not sell apartments on Shabbat.

Africa Israel is also involved in ownership of shopping malls at Ness Ziona and Yehud and holds 26% of Alon's gas stations.

While the prospective stoppage of operations on Shabbat may reduce Africa Israel's earnings, Kaplan emphasized that the publicly traded company operates

according to business considerations and in the best interest of its shareholders.

Africa Israel has not yet made any final decisions on the issue, he said.

Since Leviev's purchase of the company, there have been several changes in management due to the resignation of senior officials.

Among others, Shimon Harel, in charge of marketing and one of the more dominant managers in the company, is expected to leave during the next few weeks.

China in \$10m. deal with Dead Sea Works

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Dead Sea Works has received a \$10-million order for 100,000 tons of potash from Chinese Chemical concern Sinochem, Israel Chemicals chairman Shouli Eisenberg said this week. Eisenberg and China's visiting vice premier Li Lanqing announced the deal.

"There's very great importance to increased trade relations between the two nations," Eisenberg said.

Israel Chemicals, the parent company of Dead Sea Works, is building a potash plant with Chinese partners, according to Erwin Eisenberg, the CEO of Israel Corp., a holding company controlled by Shouli Eisenberg.

The deal between Dead Sea Works and China represents a renewal in ties between the two parties. Israel previously supplied China with the bulk of its potash requirements, but recently the Chinese began to import the fertilizer from Canada. The Chinese import three million tons of potash a year.

The aim of Lanqing's four-day visit here is to increase trade between the two countries, a representative from the Chinese Embassy said. Two-way trade totalled \$240m. last year.

Yesterday, Lanqing attended the opening of ECI Telecom Ltd.'s Ofakim plant, which will begin manufacturing equipment for the Ji Tong Golden Bridge project.



China's vice premier Li Lanqing. (Nadav Neuhaus)

ECI is expected to supply \$60m. worth of networking equipment, which will enable the Chinese telecom operator Ji Tong to offer modern data services, such as Internet access, to various Chinese cities.

ECI CEO David Rubner said investing in each other's countries offers Israelis and Chinese an opportunity to take advantage of distant markets.

"We should look not just to buy and sell to each other but also to establish Israeli factories in China and Chinese factories in Israel, with an eye at marketing to other countries," Rubner said.

Lanqing is also expected to visit Israel's diamond bourse in Ramat Gan. Eisenberg said he intends to set up a diamond exchange in Shanghai with local partners.

IBM Israel buys 51% of Tadiran Information

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

IBM Israel yesterday signed an agreement to purchase 51 percent of Tadiran Information Systems in exchange for \$5.5 million, Tadiran informed the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday.

The deal is part of a merger agreement to combine the two companies' outsourcing activities.

Tadiran Information, which serves as Tadiran's software division, will turn into IBM's outsourcing arm in Israel, as well as part of the company's international service network - IBM Global Services.

Tadiran Information is considered one of the country's largest systems integration and software development firms.

According to the agreement, IBM will transfer information systems to Tadiran valued at \$3.9m.

As a result of the merger, IBM and Tadiran forecast that outsourcing activities will reach \$50m. in 1997, while backlog of orders are expected to total about \$70m.

The transaction is part of Tadiran's policy to establish cooperation agreements with multinational industry leaders. Tadiran general manager Yisrael Zamir said.

The company hopes the transaction will significantly increase the division's computer program-

ming business and encourage joint projects with IBM in the programming and computer fields, he said.

The agreement was reached following Tadiran Information's failure to sign a similar agreement with Electronic Data Systems (EDS) Israel, a subsidiary of General Motors. In October 1995, Tadiran announced it had signed an

agreement in principle concerning the sale of its shares to EDS Israel, a partnership between the American EDS and Karden Investments.

The transaction did not go ahead because of the US company's opposition.

The agreement is subject to the approval of the Anti-Trust Division at the Industry and Trade Ministry.

Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.275	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.625	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (19.2.97)					
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.8013	3.6584	3.28	3.3520	3.6384
German mark	1.9605	1.9223	1.92	2.02	1.9806
Pound sterling	5.3633	5.4498	5.27	5.53	5.4182
French franc	0.5804	0.5896	0.57	0.60	0.5885
Japanese yen (100)	2.6796	2.7226	2.63	2.77	2.7058
Dutch florin	1.7470	1.7752	1.71	1.80	1.7843
Swiss franc	2.2437	2.2796	2.20	2.32	2.2884
Swedish krona	0.4453	0.4525	0.43	0.46	0.4502
Norwegian krona	0.4913	0.4983	0.48	0.51	0.4959
Denish krona	0.5140	0.5223	0.50	0.53	0.5191
Finnish mark	0.6572	0.6678	0.64	0.68	0.6640
Canadian dollar	2.4481	2.4676	2.40	2.53	2.4733
Australian dollar	2.5346	2.5755	2.49	2.62	2.5855
S. African rand	0.7394	0.7516	0.67	0.76	0.7478
Belgian franc (10)	0.9502	0.9558	0.95	0.98	0.9598
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7858	2.8308	2.73	2.88	2.8148
Italian lira (1000)	1.9686	2.0004	1.93	2.03	1.9906
Jordanian dinar	4.8280	4.8900	4.52	4.85	4.7431
Egyptian pound	0.9400	1.0300	0.94	1.03	1.0307
ECU	3.8015	3.8629			3.8398
Irish punt	5.2294	5.3107	5.13	5.39	5.2663
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3125	2.3496	2.27	2.39	2.3371

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Rates for Target and Prime Funds for 11.2.97			
(הסדר) TARGET	דמי	PRIME	דמי
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents	Foreign Residents	Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents	Foreign Residents
Purchase Price:	164.31	Purchase Price:	115.78
Redemption Price:	161.94	Redemption Price:	114.27

Drive slower! Drive with care!

ISRAEL ELECTRIC CORPORATION TENDERS
CORRECTION - to Tender 592704, published Feb. 2, 1997
Hotel Services for Corporation Employees on Courses
This important information was omitted:
IEC invites proposals for the provision of hotel/course facilities in the DEAD SEA AREA.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT COMPANIES AUTHORITY hereby announces

that it is considering selling all the shares held by the State of Israel (hereinafter: "the State Shares") in:
The Israel National Oil Co. Ltd. (hereinafter: "INOC" or "the Company") public company 520022476

Parties other than "Government Corporations" (as defined in the below-mentioned Sale Procedure) interested in purchasing all the State Shares (99.9% of the issued company capital), may apply to the Government of Israel through the Government Companies Authority as specified in this announcement.

A Government Corporation will not be permitted to participate in the sale process on its own or as part of an applicant group (as such terms are defined in the below-mentioned Sale Procedure).

Necessary application forms and documents - written in Hebrew - including the Procedure for Sale of the State Shares (above-mentioned and hereinafter: "the Sale Procedure"), may be purchased as of Tuesday, February 18, 1997, from Mr. Ilan Avrahami or Mr. Natan Treitel, Government Companies Authority, 1 Kaplan St., 7th floor, Room 721, Jerusalem (hereinafter: "the Government Companies Authority Offices"); Tel. 02-5317567, 02-5317448; Fax: 02-5611680, for a sum of NIS 2,500 (which shall not be refunded), payable by a banker's cheque to the Ministry of Finance - the Accountant General.

The final date for submitting applications, according to the conditions set forth in the Sale Procedure, is Tuesday, April 1, 1997, at 17:00 at the Government Companies Authority Offices. The Government Companies Authority may at any time, by way of a published announcement, extend or advance the final date for submission of applications, as well as change other dates and conditions in the Sale Procedure, at its sole and absolute discretion.

The Government shall be entitled, at its sole and absolute discretion, to select from among the applicants and from among other parties it may address, candidates who shall continue to participate in the sale process, after considering which candidates best satisfy the requirements specified in the Sale Procedure, including among others, managerial and business development capabilities, the existence of financial capabilities for the purchase of the State Shares and for the operation of the company and its various business activities and other requirements, specified in the Sale Procedure.

The sale of the State Shares is exempt from the obligation to hold a tender, under the "Obligation of Tenders Regulations - 1993."

In order to remove any doubt, it is hereby clarified that this announcement does not constitute an invitation to the general public to purchase the State Shares, nor does it constitute an offer or undertaking on the part of the Government to sell the State Shares. The purchaser of the State Shares shall be determined in accordance with the Sale Procedure, including negotiations which the Government may, at its sole and absolute discretion, conduct, if it shall decide to proceed with the said sale of the State Shares.

The purchase of the State Shares is subject to the prior approval of the Antitrust Authority.

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(הסדר) TARGET
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 18.2.97
Purchase Price: 165.26
Redemption Price: 162.90

PRIME
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 18.2.97
Purchase Price: 115.86
Redemption Price: 114.36

National Insurance Institute

Benefit Rights for a Handicapped Child Broadened to include all Income Groups

Effective January 1, 1995 all parents of handicapped children who fall into the categories listed below will be entitled to benefits regardless of their income.

Parents who submit claims **not later than March 9, 1997** will be eligible for a benefit payment retroactive to January 1, 1995, or to the beginning of their eligibility period, but not earlier than January 1, 1995. Those submitting a claim after March 9, 1997, who are found to be eligible, will receive the benefit only from the first of the month in which the claim was made.

Who is entitled to a handicapped child's benefit?

- An infant who is not yet 3 years old, who suffers from a severe illness (including a malignant disease or a severe secondary disease caused by one), or who suffers from a severe development problem, or who is blind in accordance with the regulations.
- A child aged 3 - 18
 - who is not able to perform everyday activities without major assistance from another person (getting around his house, dressing, washing, eating, personal hygiene), or who is in need of constant supervision to prevent him from endangering his life or that of others;
 - who suffers from one of the following: dysautonomia, cystic fibrosis, autism, F.D.D., schizophrenia, blindness, thalassemia, haemophilia A (up to age 14)
 - who receives dialysis treatment at least twice a week, or chemotherapy or radiation treatments for a malignant disease
- An infant with Down's Syndrome
- An infant or child with impaired hearing with a hearing threshold in each ear of 45 decibels
- An infant or child who has undergone a transplant (kidney, heart, pancreas, liver, bone marrow from a foreign donor) - during the first year

Information and Public Relations

APPLICABLE

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table listing Israeli shares in New York with columns for share name, price, and change.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table listing the top 100 TASE issues with columns for share name, price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table listing international shares with columns for share name, price, and change.

NEW YORK

Large table listing various New York market data, including share prices and changes.

Table listing various international shares with columns for share name, price, and change.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Table listing TASE market data including Mishtanim and Maof indices.

Table listing key representative rates for various currencies.

Table listing New York Market Indexes.

Table listing other stock market indexes.

Table listing dollar crossrates for various currencies.

Table listing London metal fixes.

Table listing spot market metals.

Table listing New York metal futures.

Shares drop from record levels

Share indexes dropped from record levels yesterday, led by Bank Hapoalim, Bezeq and holding company Koor Industries Ltd.

The Mishtanim index of 100 most-traded shares fell 1.11 percent to 267.55, while the Maof index of 25 top issues fell 1.26% to 274.24.

The London stock market scaled new heights as investors shrugged off the pullback on Wall Street and the jump in retail sales that could point to a rise in interest rates.

The Dow Industrials Average was off its lows but still showing an eight point loss as the London markets closed.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks fell on profit-taking yesterday after news that inflation was still in check in January failed to ignite another record-setting rally.

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Large vertical advertisement on the left side of the page, partially obscured by a can of 'alt of Israel'.

PAC MED INVESTMENTS logo and text.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE section with various services listed.

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES, FIRE FIRST AID, and DUTY HOSPITALS sections.

SPORTS

in brief

Tuigamala breaks rugby transfer record

LONDON (Reuters) - Va'alga Tuigamala became rugby's first million-pound player yesterday when he turned his back on rugby league and Wigan to join Newcastle's all-star rugby union team. The Western Samoan-born Tuigamala's transfer cost his new club £500,000 (\$808,000) but a five-year contract and compensation payments - Newcastle must repay his Super League loyalty bonus - elevates the deal to world record proportions. Wigan allowed the former All Black winger to play union with Wasps in the current English winter, but have now sold him to the highest bidder to help ease their reported debts of over £3 million.

Bradman still the favorite with Australians

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Golfers Greg Norman and Karrie Webb, Olympic swimming gold medalist Keiren Perkins and boxer Kostya Tszyu may be international stars, but a cricketer who hasn't played for almost 50 years remains Australia's favorite sporting personality.

Sir Donald Bradman, regarded as the greatest batsman of all time, was named the nation's most popular sports personality in the 10th Australians and Sport survey, results of which were released yesterday.

Sir Donald, now 78, polled 29 percent of votes in the all-time poll, with two-time British Open champion Norman next on 10 percent. Dual Olympic 1,500 meters freestyle champion Perkins was voted the leading Australian sportsman of 1996.

West Indies want World Cup every two years

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (Reuters) - West Indies want cricket's World Cup to be staged every two years instead of every four years. Caribbean officials are also seeking to host the 2003 edition of the game's most prestigious limited overs tournament.

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) is to meet here on Saturday to finalise plans for its bid, ahead of an International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting in Malaysia next month, said board secretary Andrew Sealy.

England are hosting the next World Cup in 1999 and South Africa have been awarded the 2003 event, although the West Indies are still challenging for it.

Graf gets 'Sports Illustrated' photo bikini spread

NEW YORK (AP) - Steffi Graf has been the subject of many items in the American magazine Sports Illustrated over her career. But not like this.

The world's No. 1 ranked woman player posed as part of the weekly's annual winter swimsuit issue, running through the sand and splashing in the surf for the benefit of the camera wearing several different bikinis.

Graf said she was not bothered that people will see so much of her. "I mean, if it were Playboy, that would be another thing," she told the magazine.

The swimsuit issue has been an annual tradition for Sports Illustrated for 33 years, which is both its most widely read issue and its most controversial.

Graf gets her own eight-photo spread in the magazine, adjoining but separate from the main photo spread - dedicated to the bikini - which features the model Tyra Banks.

Starks gives Knicks victory with long-range buzzer beater

NEW YORK (Reuters) - John Starks drained a three-pointer at the buzzer to cap a frantic finish as the New York Knicks edged the Phoenix Suns 95-94 on Tuesday.

A jumper by Jason Kidd had given Phoenix a 94-92 lead with 28 seconds to go and the Knicks wound down the clock inside 10 seconds.

Allan Houston missed a three-pointer, but the long rebound bounced to Starks, who dribbled behind the arc, gave a fake and let the winning shot go just before the buzzer.

Patrick Ewing had 31 points and 13 rebounds for the Knicks, who erased a 16-point third-quarter deficit to win for the 20th time in their last 21 home games.

"Everybody was jumping on (Starks)," Ewing said. "I thought we won the championship."

Wesley Person scored 22 points and Cedric Ceballos added 19 for the Suns, who led 70-54 with 6:30 left in the third quarter before the

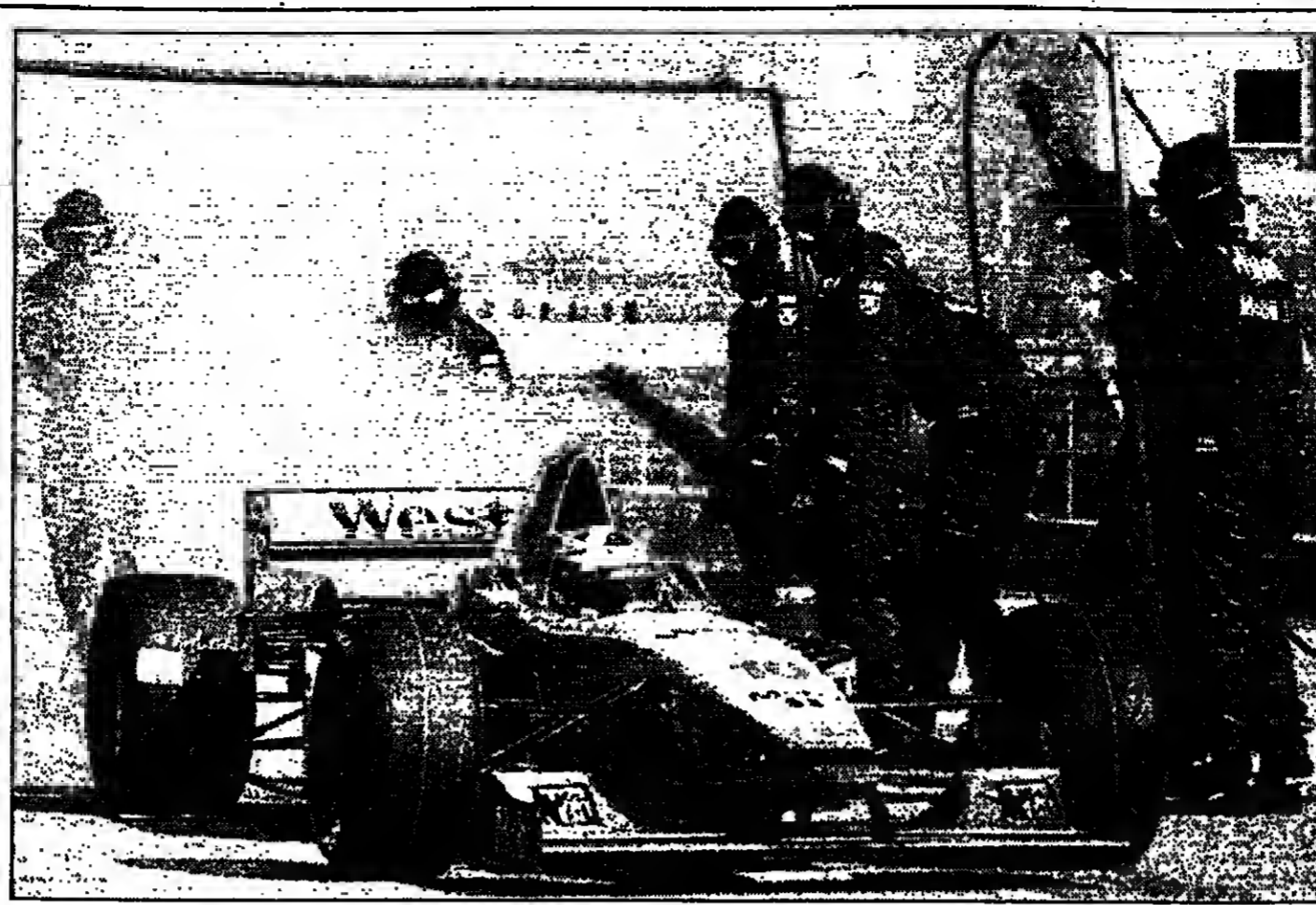
Knicks erupted with an 18-2 run. In Chicago, Scottie Pippen pulled a Michael Jordan in a career-high 47 points on 19-of-27 shooting as the Bulls won their 17th straight home game, a 134-123 victory over the Denver Nuggets.

"I never really knew I was near my career high until the fans starting booing Phil (Jackson) for taking me out," said Pippen, who scored 18 points in the third quarter alone.

Jordan scored 24 points, Steve Kerr chipped in 18 and Dennis Rodman pulled down 13 rebounds for the Bulls.

Dale Ellis had 27 points and Antonio McDyess added 25 for Denver, which scored 44 points in the 77-point fourth quarter as the teams combined for the highest-scoring NBA contest this season.

Tuesday's results: New York 95, Phoenix 94; Miami 111, Philadelphia 83; Utah 113, San Antonio 110; Chicago 134, Denver 123; LA Clippers 87, Dallas 69; Sacramento 95, Minnesota 84.



Speeding away

British Formula 1 driver David Coulthard accelerates out of the pit lane in his McLaren Mercedes during practice at the Montmelo circuit near Barcelona yesterday. Most teams have begun preparing their crews and cars in Spain and Portugal ahead of the new F1 season which begins next month. (AP)

Maccabi faces survival struggle against Olympiakos

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Just one week ago, optimism was so high following Maccabi Tel Aviv's impressive home victory over Alba Berlin that pundits were charting the possibility of finishing second in the Euro League's Group E and diminishing the chances of ending up out of the top four as a mere technicality.

But tonight, following the embarrassing loss to previously winless Charleroi in Belgium, Maccabi finds itself in a desperate fight for survival. If Maccabi wins, it advances to the Final 16, while if it loses it needs CSKA Moscow to also lose at home to Charleroi.

The answer to which way the blue-and-yellow pendulum will swing tonight rests on which Maccabi will show up against Olympiakos.

Will it be the fine-tuned, team-oriented inspired club that twice defeated Stefanel Milan (which was 11-1 against everyone else, before clinching first place) or the listless, disorganized team we saw last week at Charleroi and in two losses to CSKA Moscow (which is 5-8 against everyone else).

Olympiakos has also suffered a humiliating defeat this week, losing in the Greek league to last-place VAV Salonika. The loss

knocked Olympiakos, at 16-4, out of first place. So upset was team management that they reportedly fined everyone on the club a month's salary, an average of about \$40,000.

Unfortunately for Maccabi, the four-time defending Greek champions - who reached the European title game in both 1994 and 1995 - have not run into any such problems lately in the Euro League.

The Greeks have won three straight European contests, including an 87-84 victory over Milan last week.

They also have a clear incentive to win tonight, as they need a victory (and for Alba Berlin to lose) to finish second and play two of the three games in the Final 16 at home, where Olympiakos is 7-1 this season and 36-6 over the past four-plus European campaigns.

In the first game against Maccabi, Olympiakos demonstrated its dominance at home by overcoming a halftime deficit to outlast the Israelis, who after a great first half became increasingly careless following the break and lost 69-60.

The comeback was spearheaded by point guard David Rivers, who led all scorers with 20 points and tenaciousness penetrated Maccabi's defense to open up the floor for his teammates.



Maccabi must try to contain the dangerous David Rivers.

Rivers, who is averaging 16.5 points, also poured in 25 points and had no turnovers in the victory over Milan last week.

In the loss to VAV Salonika, Olympiakos played without starters Demetrios Papanikolaou and Pangiotis Fassoulas. Papanikolaou, who scored 10 points in the victory over Maccabi, will not play today.

But Fassoulas, the veteran of many European battles with Maccabi who is averaging 9.0 points and 5.8 rebounds in Europe in 25 minutes a contest, is expect-

ed to see action.

Dragan Tarlach, averaging 14.7 points and 7.2 rebounds, and team captain Georgios Sigalas (10.1 average) round out the starting lineup.

Maccabi has injuries of its own, with Randy White's knee giving him trouble during the week.

Even when healthy, Maccabi's recent history has been one of coming up short in the big games.

Ever since Maccabi took a 1-0 series lead to Madrid against Efessiantes in the 1992 quarterfinals and then proceeded to lose two straight, Tel Aviv has failed to perform in the crucial matches.

In 1995, the Israelis lost a showdown with CSKA in Moscow in the final pool's penultimate contest and finished one game off the pace. Last season, Maccabi entered the second half of the final pool in good shape with a 4-3 mark but then proceeded to lose three consecutive home games and fall out of contention.

Maccabi, which last played Olympiakos at Yad Elihu in the championships in 1979, has never lost to the Greek outfit at home. However, to win tonight, the Israelis will have to do more than play well for 20 minutes and then pull another disappearing act.

The game is due to be broadcast live, starting at 20:45 on Channel 1.

Group E		L	Pts
Stefanel Milan*	11	4	26
Olympiakos*	9	8	24
Alba Berlin*	9	6	24
Maccabi Tel Aviv	7	8	23
CSKA Moscow	7	8	22
Charleroi	1	14	18

* - Clinched final 16 spot

Man. Utd. wins 2-1 at Arsenal

LONDON (Reuters) - Striker Andy Cole reaffirmed his return to form by scoring one goal and creating another as Manchester United beat Arsenal 2-1 at the top of the English premier league last night.

Cole, rejected by Arsenal as a youngster after just one appearance, put the champions ahead after 18 minutes in his first full league game of a frustrating season. He set up Norway's Ole Gunnar Solskjaer for United's second 14 minutes later.

Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp scored for Arsenal after the break but the Londoners failed to find an equaliser.

The victory kept United a point clear of Liverpool, who spoil Ian Rush's return to Anfield by beating Leeds 4-0, and carried them five points clear of third-placed Arsenal.

Sam Collymore scored twice in two minutes for Liverpool after Robbie Fowler had given Liverpool a 21st-minute lead.

Jarnie Redknapp scored the Merseysiders' fourth three minutes from time.

Thiruvadanian striker Dwight Yorke struck twice as Aston Villa beat Midlands neighbours Coventry 2-1 while Derby and Sheffield Wednesday shared in a 2-2 draw.

Newcastle's clash at West Ham was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

FA alerts clubs about danger of dazzling lasers

LONDON (AP) - The English Football Association is alerting clubs to the latest danger from fans - tiny laser beams intended to dazzle the players.

Wimbledon's Vinnie Jones repeatedly had a red beam directed at his head while he was taking throw-ins during Tuesday's League Cup semifinal at Leicester which ended goalless.

Aston Villa's Australian goalkeeper, Mark Bosnich, also was a target at a game against Newcastle last month, and Villa has banned the lasers from its ground.

The FA said yesterday it was up to each individual club to "take action but it called on fans not to use them. The problem is that the lasers, which can be bought for as little as £30, are only about the size of a pen and can easily be smuggled into grounds.

"We would appeal to people not to use them and have written to all clubs alerting them that this laser appears to be in use and of it being a potential hazard," FA spokesman Steve Double said.

"Our concern is for players' safety and if a player is distracted while making a tackle then it could result in an injury to him or his opponent."

New controversy rocks SA rugby

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South African rugby, stunned by a scandal over racism, could face the added embarrassment of a commission of inquiry if it refuses to cooperate with a government probe of alleged financial irregularities.

The South African Rugby Football Union's (SARFU) executive committee was due to meet sports minister Steve Tshwete in Cape Town tomorrow, when the scope of the task force investigation would be outlined.

An official inquiry would deal another body blow to South African rugby, dragged through the mud this week when Springboks coach Andre Markgraaf was forced to resign for referring to black members of the National Sports Council as "***** kaffirs."

The report due to be discussed tomorrow refers to a dossier prepared by former Transvaal Rugby Union vice-president Brian van Rooyen which alleges financial irregularities involving sponsorships and television deals.

NHL cuts lists of expansion prospects from 11 to six

NEW YORK (AP) - The National Hockey League's expansion committee has cut from 11 to six the number of cities being considered for admission, including two cities that once had franchises - Minneapolis-St. Paul and Atlanta.

The other cities still in contention for what could be four expansion spots in 1998 and 2000 are Columbus, Ohio; Houston, Nashville, Tennessee and Oklahoma City.

The other two Houston groups are no longer under consideration along with Hamilton,

Ontario; Hampton Roads, Virginia and Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. The North Carolina group had withdrawn before the expansion committee meetings began on Tuesday.

While league commissioner Gary Bettman has made no commitments, the speculation is that the 26-team league plans to add two teams in 1998 and two more in 2000 with each team carrying a purchase price of between \$75 million and \$80 million.

Tuesday's results: Calgary 5, Buffalo 5 (OT); Pittsburgh 4, Florida 3; Ottawa 6, Washington 1; Colorado 3, Boston 2 (OT); Phoenix 6, Los Angeles 1; Toronto 6, Vancouver 5; San Jose 3, Dallas 1.

CLASSIFIEDS

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What will happen if...

In a nutshell, if Maccabi wins it is assured a place in the Final 16, while if it loses it can only advance if CSKA Moscow also loses at home to Charleroi.

Stefanel Milan is assured of finishing first and Charleroi last. Alba Berlin and Olympiakos have clinched a place in the Final 16 but are battling for the key second spot, which grants home-court advantage for the best-of-three series.

For Maccabi, here are the different combinations which can occur, with the team finishing anywhere from third place to fifth:

1. Maccabi beats Olympiakos, Alba Berlin loses to Stefanel Milan: Maccabi, Olympiakos and Alba would end in a three-way tie at 9-7. Alba would finish second, due to a better record (3-1) against those teams, while Maccabi would finish third, and Olympiakos fourth. In this scenario, it would not matter by how many points Maccabi beats Olympiakos, and it does not matter what CSKA does.
2. Maccabi beats Olympiakos, Alba beats Stefanel: Alba finishes second, while Maccabi and CSKA would finish third, if Maccabi finishes second, or fourth, if it loses to CSKA.
3. Maccabi loses to Olympiakos, CSKA beats Charleroi: Maccabi and CSKA would both finish with an 8-8 record, but CSKA's would be fourth and advance to the Final 16 and Maccabi would end its European season in fifth place, because the Russians defeated Maccabi twice.
4. Maccabi loses to Olympiakos, CSKA loses to Charleroi: Maccabi would finish a game ahead of CSKA and finish fourth.

In both scenarios 3 and 4, if Alba wins it finishes second, while if it loses it finishes third. *Brian Freeman*

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JAZZ

ENGLISH THEATRE

DANCE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

CRY

Man. U wins 2-1 at Arsenal

CRITIC'S CHOICE

JAZZ

Blues and videotape start tonight at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque... Helen Kaye



Helen Kaye

That jazz couple Iris and Ofer Portugali team up with singer/bassist Alon Olereichik tomorrow at Beit Shmuel in Jerusalem at 10:30 p.m.

ENGLISH THEATER

Don't Dress for Dinner, the long-running West End hit farce by Marc Camoletti about adultery, cookery, and trickery down on the farm starts its local tour, Saturday night at Beit Hahayal in Tel Aviv at 8:30.

DANCE

Ohad Naharin's audience-challenging Yag is a technically demanding, emotionally somber work for six of the BatSheva Dance Company dancers. Tonight on the Suzanne Dellal main stage at 7:30 and 9:45, and tomorrow at 10 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

There is a lot of chamber music to enjoy this weekend in the Jerusalem area. Pianist Avram Reichert plays selections by Beethoven, Liszt, Scriabin, Schubert and Rod Weidberg, Friday (noon) at the Jerusalem Music Center. Saturday (11 a.m.) flutist Moshe Epstein, harpist Julia Sverdlov and violinist Avri Levitan play French music by Debussy, Fauré, Ibert and others at the Augusta Victoria church on Mt. Scopus. At the Abu Ghosh church, Saturday (noon), you can enjoy a concert by the always exciting and invigorating Hanna Zam, this time performing Renaissance songs, spirituals and Mozart's C major Mass. Avner Itai leads the Chamber Choir of the Jerusalem Rubin Music Academy in a program of choral selections by Bruckner, Brahms, Palestrina, Bach and others Saturday (8:30 p.m.) at St. Andrew's Scottish Church in Jerusalem.

Ehud Banai kicks off his promotional tour for 'Od Me'at' at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque.

TELEVISION

Equinox is another highly awarded British series, this time by Channel Four. It is being run again on Channel 23, Thursdays at 10:30 p.m. This series takes a look at science and technology from a totally different angle, and discusses various disturbing questions such as death, identification using DNA, self-identity and others. Today's chapter, Do Vampires have Friends? discusses a very old question indeed. Do animals have a consciousness the same as humans?

TV

20:50 and NBA Basketball 22:05 News headlines 17:02 Out of This World... CHANNEL 1 6:30 News flash... CHANNEL 2 6:15 Today's Programs... CHANNEL 3 16:15 The Thirst of Years... CHANNEL 4 11:30 Anything to Survive (1990) (rerun)

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs like Newsflash, News, Perla Negra, The Dark Side of Genius, etc.

the early '60s. Interviews with David Byrne, Allen Ginsberg, Laurie Anderson and others (75 mins.)... DISCOVERY (8) 8:00 Open University... CHANNEL 5 8:30 Bodies in Motion... CHANNEL 6 6:00 Great Houses (rerun)

RADIO

6:06 Morning Concert 9:05 Bach: Piano concerto in D BWV 1054... VOICE OF MUSIC 6:06 Morning Concert 9:05 Bach: Piano concerto in D BWV 1054... EUROSPORT 9:30 Athletics: IAAF Indoor Meet, Moscow (rerun)



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Handled a horse without hesitation (7) 5 Money to keep accountant quiet (4) 9 11 in a queue (3,5,7) 10 Blow the cutting (4) 11 Complacent look causes NCO distress (5) 12 In Delhi D'oliveira was a superstar (4) 15 A striker carrying less weight (7) 16 Cross over the road to make an entrance (7) 17 Governor initially conceded it deterred criminals (7) 19 Took as long that everyone inside expired (7) 21 Left East German in state of confusion (4)

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

QUICK CROSSWORD section with clues and solutions.

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE 7:15 + Barton Fink 7:15 + City of Hope + Return of the Secaucus 7:30 + Der Letzte Mann 8:15 + G.G. Gil Jerusalem... MOVIES 7:15, 9:30 ATZMON Daylight... 7:15, 9:30 G.G. Gil The Ghost and the Darkness... 7:15, 9:30 STAR Ransom... 7:15, 9:30 G.G. Gil The Ghost and the Darkness... 7:15, 9:30 STAR Ransom... 7:15, 9:30 G.G. Gil The Ghost and the Darkness...

Man. U wins 2-1 at Arsenal... FA alerts clubs about danger of dazzling laser

Weinberg testifies for Deri

Shmuel Weinberg, whose father, Arye, and brother, Moshe, are co-defendants in the fraud trial of Shas leader Aryeh Deri, was called to testify for the defense yesterday.

Deri claims that Shmuel Weinberg was one of the people who transferred money to him from his wife's American benefactors, Esther and Isser Werderber. Shmuel Weinberg resides in the US and came here to testify. He was the main contact person between the Werderbers and the Deris.

His testimony is expected to last at least a week. Yesterday, he spoke of how he met the Werderbers and Deri.

Deri is charged with bribe-taking, fraud, breach of trust and falsifying corporate documents. According to the indictment, Deri received more than \$150,000 from Yom-Tov Rubin and Moshe and Aryeh Weinberg between 1985 and 1990, in exchange for using his influence at the Interior Ministry to help various associations in which the four were involved.

However, Deri claims that his personal wealth came from the Werderbers, who he says transferred him large sums of cash. According to Deri, the money was used to purchase and renovate apartments. Deri claims that since the money was transferred in cash it does not appear in his bank



Shmuel Weinberg (Brian Hender)

statements. Shmuel Weinberg, who asked the prosecution yesterday not to use his testimony as a basis to indict him, also was allegedly involved in the Nebi Samwil land marketing affair.

Moshe and Aryeh Weinberg marketed plots for the haredi housing project, via the Moresht Binyamin association. However, the area was declared a protected site due to its altitude before the land had been registered.

According to the indictment, the two feared lawsuits from the purchasers, so they bribed Deri to use his influence at the Interior Ministry, where he was director-general at the time, to get the government to give the group alternative lands for their project. (Tim)



Brazilian peace messages

Pupils from the state-religious school in the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City wave peace messages sent by Jewish pupils in Sao Paulo, Brazil before putting them into the Western Wall yesterday. The notes were sent here via the Foreign Ministry.

(Yitzhak Elhanan/Scoop 87)

WEATHER Golan 7-18

Haifa 10-19	Tiberias 8-18
Afula 8-18	Safed 6-18
Tel Aviv 10-18	Jerusalem 7-16
Beer Sheva 7-21	Dead Sea 12-22
Eilat 11-25	

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Cloud
Amman	12	22	partly cloudy
Bahia	23	28	cloudy
Bombay	23	28	partly cloudy
Chicago	23	28	partly cloudy
Copenhagen	23	28	partly cloudy
Frankfurt	23	28	partly cloudy
Geneva	23	28	partly cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the ace of spades, the 10 of hearts, the 10 of diamonds and nine of clubs.

IDF Ombudsman complaints down 10%

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The IDF Ombudsman announced a 10 percent drop in the number of complaints from soldiers in 1996, but said the army is not doing enough to maintain adequate service conditions, which contributes to an erosion in motivation.

Ombudsman Maj.-Gen. (res.) Aharon Doron said the reduction was mainly in complaints filed by males doing their regular army service, while the number remained about the same among female soldiers and reservists.

"We haven't found the explanation for this drop. It was spread throughout the army. I welcome it even though I can't explain it," Doron said, adding that the number of troops was about equal to the previous year.

According to the 25th annual Ombudsman's report, a total of 7,901 complaints were filed last year, compared with 8,874 in 1995. Some 3,600 complaints were filed in 1994, and 8,938 in 1993.

Speaking at a new conference at the Defense Ministry, Doron said 61 percent of the 1996 complaints were found to be justified.

Eighty percent of the complaints revolved around seven issues: commander relations to health problems, medical treatment, reserve duty, commander-soldier relations, unit placement, salaries and service conditions.

Doron said there was a reduction in complaints among recruits dealing with lack of sleep.

An infantry unit complained that they were forced to eat battle rations for two months because the kitchen had been closed down. The complaint, which was filed by one of the soldiers' parents who remained anonymous, was passed on to the training base commander, who told them the IDF health services had shut the kitchen down because of unacceptable sanitary conditions.

According to the Ombudsman's report, this reply was unacceptable and top IDF

officers were prodded into dealing with the matter. A further inquiry found that soldiers had actually been given only battle rations for three months and the unit doctor said that some soldiers had lost weight for lack of proper nutrition.

Shortly after the complaint was investigated, proper food was delivered to the unit and an alternative kitchen installed, the report said, adding the Ombudsman expressed dismay over the incident and the fact that it was only resolved after senior IDF officers were asked to intervene.

Ombudsman statistics show that one out of every five complaints are filed by parents or relatives of soldiers. "In my eyes it's too much," Doron told military reporters. "With all due respect, it's not the mother's concern whether her son has made sergeant or not."

Still, Doron, a former Golani Brigade commander and OC Manpower, blasted the army for accepting degenerating living conditions for regular soldiers and reservists. He particularly noted the deteriorating con-

ditions for reservists at Megiddo Prison. Doron also said that complaints from elite units were rare.

Poor conditions in general are a major cause in the erosion in motivation to serve, he said. "I am not the national barometer for erosion and motivation, but I go to the field and meet with soldiers and I see that maintaining basic conditions adds to their motivation," Doron said.

According to the report, complaints from soldiers in the regular army accounted for 47.9% of total complaints down from 49.5% in 1995, and reservists made up 37% compared with 33.9% the previous year. But Doron said the actual number of complaints from reservists dropped from 3,009 to 2,927.

Doron noted that some complaints should have been answered by the IDF before they came to him. He noted the instance of a 2.2-meter-tall soldier who was not given a proper-fitting uniform or shoes. "After 50 years the army needs to give an answer to these problems," Doron said.

Avi-Yitzhak's letter of resignation

The following is the letter of resignation that Dan Avi-Yitzhak, who had represented Shas MK Aryeh Deri in his fraud trial in Jerusalem District Court, sent to Deri:

For many months you pursued me, so that I would agree to handle your criminal case. You sent emissaries to influence me after I refused, and you put great pressure on me. Finally, you succeeded in persuading me with certain conditions that you agreed to in writing.

Under these conditions, I would dedicate myself to the handling of your case during my limited free time, to the degree that I had such time. I did as much as possible to assist you in your case, without weariness and without fear, and with endless dedication and loyalty.

Now, as a result of the police investigation into the allegations relating to the appointment of attorney [Ron] Bar-On as attorney-general, I have been informed that you went behind my back and defamed me and my wife, and spread rumors about us, and all because of my "big sin," that I dared for totally relevant reasons to oppose your plan to appoint Bar-On as attorney-general, and didn't submit to your will.

However, the most serious thing of all is that today, February 18, I was told by police investigators that in order to try to defend yourself from the truth, you chose to attack me with horrible and unbelievable accusations.

This time my big sin was to fulfill my obligations as a citizen and a person to tell the police the truth. I don't understand how you can expect me to continue to represent you in these circumstances, and how you even sent me messengers to try to appease me, as you did last night.

I am hereby notifying you that under these circumstances I can no longer deal with your case or anything relating to it.

Sincerely,
Dan Avi-Yitzhak

Eitan not guilty of privacy invasion; charges against Segev dropped

Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan was acquitted yesterday in Haifa Magistrate's Court of charges he had invaded privacy and improperly used a database.

Eitan had been charged with violating the Privacy Protection Law by allegedly using confidential IDF information to force an activist to leave the party. Related charges against former energy minister Gonen Segev and Tsomet activist Haggai Asbur were dropped.

The court decided, however, to pursue legal action against another Tsomet activist Sami Shenfeld, who is accused of actually procur-

ing the information from the IDF database while serving in the reserves.

After the 1992 Knesset elections, an internal struggle ensued in Tsomet over the appointment of a director of the movement, with Segev and Asbur trying to prevent the appointment of Asber Cohen.

As a result, in October 1992, Shenfeld allegedly obtained Cohen's computerized IDF file. The prosecution claims he gave the potentially incriminating file to Asbur, who passed it to Segev, who in turn passed it to Eitan, who was accused of confronting Cohen with incriminating information and thus forcing him out of

Tsomet.

The judges, in their verdict, said that Eitan, who had gotten the computer file from others, had acted reasonably in trying to determine whether Cohen was fit to be the movement's director, and had called a discreet meeting with Cohen to try to verify the information.

"There is no doubt that it was his social obligation as chairman of the movement to do this," the judges wrote.

They added that Segev and Asbur, in passing the information on, had acted "reasonably and in keeping with their obligations." (Tim)



Former energy minister Gonen Segev (left) and Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan.



(Photos: Isaac Harari and Isaac Sam)

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Geula Amir defends son

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Geula Amir aggressively defends her son, Yigal, the assassin of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, in an article appearing in the US this week.

Called "A Mother's Defense," Amir's essay appears in *George*, a magazine of "pop politics" that is edited by John F. Kennedy Jr., whose father was assassinated in November 1963.

The 10,000-plus-word essay lacks any significant reference to the profound impact of Yigal Amir's act on Israeli society or the Jewish people. Instead, Amir reviews her family life, then proceeds to contend that members of the government knew the assassination might be attempted and that her son was molded by "an alleged agent provocateur and undercover government agent, Avishai Raviv."

"I believe Raviv enjoyed the full backing and protection of the Shin Bet," wrote Amir, who was expected in the US next week for a lecture tour.

"They're doing everything so that the public will hate him... They're trying to break Yigal by breaking us," Amir's mother was quoted as saying in a sidebar story. "But they won't succeed. We won't break... The day will come when people will come up to me on the street and say, 'You must be proud to be Yigal Amir's mother.'"

International connections
AT&T
Maccabi TA meeting
Sheet 16
China in trouble
Weizman to host queen in Diana's old home
BY TOM COOPER
Continued on Page 2
Toto mania
North American Newsstand Price for J.P. Friday Edition NY, N.J. \$3.00 Canada: CDN \$8.00 Elsewhere: \$4.00